RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

CRMJ – 260 SEMINAR IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

I. Basic Course Information

a. Course Prefix and Title: CRMJ-260 Seminar in Law Enforcement

b. Date: February 2007

c. Sponsoring Department: Business and Public Service Department

d. Semester Credit Hours: 3

e. Weekly Contact Hours: 3

f. Prerequisites: None

g. Laboratory Fees: None

II. Catalog Description

Students will explore the complex world of serial killings by providing a detailed account of cases; the myths surrounding serial murderers and the reasons why they continue to kill; major problems of investigating a serial murder and an analysis of the various law enforcement agencies who respond to a serial murder.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course is an elective in both the AA degree in Criminal Justice and the AAS degree in Law Enforcement. While rare, serial murders captivate the nation’s attention and serve as focal point in the study of crime and criminal investigations. Students will learn to see beyond the fiction and myth associated with such heinous crimes and study the underlying causes as well as societal reaction to this behavior.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

Criminal Justice elective.
While not reviewed on www.njtransfer.com, this course should transfer to most institutions as a free elective.

V. Outline of Course Content

Serial Murder: Fact and Fiction
Cultural Development of Monsters, Demons and Evil
Biology and Psychology in Serial Murder
VI. **General Education Goals and Learning Outcomes**

**Educational Goals**

Students will:

1. Produce works that reflect critical thinking in the area of serial murder investigation. (G.E. 1)
2. Communicate with others in a clear, logical manner, both in writing and in the presentations of group studies in serial murder investigations. (G.E. 2)
3. Analyze information regarding criminal justice issues. (G.E. 3)
4. Analyze ethical issues facing criminal justice professionals investigating serial murders. (G.E. 5)

**Learning Outcomes**

Student will be able to:

1. Assess the trends in serial murder investigations.
2. Examine the various aspects of criminal law and criminal procedure and their application to serial murders.
3. Analyze social institutions and how they effect the administration of justice in serial murders.
4. Investigate the various social, cultural and political elements that affect our understanding of serial murderers.

VII. **Modes of Teaching and Learning**

This course will use the following methods of teaching:

- Lecture/discussion
- Small group work
- Computer assisted instruction
- Guest Speakers

VIII. **Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Methods**

- Examinations
- Research Paper
- Class participation, attendance, quizzes and video
- Project
IX. **Grade Determinants**

Written exams, quizzes, and a research paper will be used to assess the students according to the general education goals and student learning outcomes listed above.

X. **Text and Materials**

A. Textbook: Author: Hickey, Eric  
   Title: *Serial Murderers and their Victims*  
   Publisher: Wadsworth  
   Edition: Latest

B. Textbook: Author: Egger, Steven  
   Title: *The Killer Among Us*  
   Publisher: Prentice Hall  
   Edition: Latest

XI. **Resources**

No special resources will be needed for this course.