

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGL-296H  
CAPSTONE RESEARCH HONORS**

**I. Basic Course Information**

A. Course Number and Title: English Capstone Research Honors ENGL-296H

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring; Year: 2017

**D. Effective Term: Fall 2017**

E. Sponsoring Department: English for the Honors College

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours:                      Lecture: 0  
   Laboratory: 0  
   Out of class student work per week: 9

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: Student must be enrolled in his or her last Honors College academic year before graduation.

I. Laboratory Fees: none

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of approval: Barbara Bretcko; Co-Director of the RVCC Honors College, Lynne Kowski  
[Lynne.Kowski@raritanval.edu](mailto:Lynne.Kowski@raritanval.edu)

**II. Catalog Description**

Prerequisites: Student must be enrolled in his or her last Honors College academic year before graduation.

This course is intended to guide sophomore Honors College students from all disciplines through the stages of conducting a semester-long research project, and/or developing an artistic pursuit. Topics include planning, research and documentation, prose style and editing, document design, ethics, abstracts, and oral presentations. Because the course will enroll from different disciplines, students will also become acquainted with research topics, ways of framing arguments, and

making points outside their fields of study, which will help them develop a more interdisciplinary perspective. Class will include research training, developing a timeline, as well as independent study and research.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. Research on the value of intensive undergraduate research experiences abounds, and requiring enrollment in this research capstone will provide RVCC Honors College students with: a strong student-faculty collaboration and scholarship; an original research to the discipline; an understanding of intensive research in preparation for classes in the major or for more intensive graduate school research; and a high profile project that will aid in transfer applications.

Class will consist of five major components: library instruction, research and guidance with faculty member, group discussions on topics and progress, the final written (or artistic) project, and a formal presentation.

- B. This course has no lab component.
- C. This course is not designed for transfer, yet dependent on transfer institution may transfer as an English program elective.

### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course does not meet a General Education requirement.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for the Honors College.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

### **V. Outline of Course Content**

Study will consist of the following major components:

1. Information literacy instruction to support research or creative project in English
2. Advanced English topic exploration
3. Background research and discussion of the capstone topic with capstone English faculty advisor to create a timeline of completion
4. Develop methods to understand and analyze the English research or creative project
5. Research and guidance with capstone English faculty advisor via weekly consultations to discuss results, assess progress and adjust timeline as needed.
6. The final English capstone project
7. A formal capstone presentation (Capstone Day).

## **VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

### **A. General Education Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Logically and persuasively state and support orally and in writing their findings from the research or creative project. (GE-NJ1, \*)
2. Evaluate relevance and authority of information. (GE-NJIL)
3. Create and revise drafts and/or review artistic process to address capstone objectives and employ standard appropriate editing practices for the specified discipline. (GE-NJ1)
4. Use discipline-specific information sources and/or databases to better understand the research topic and find existing research in the field. (GE-NJ IL)
5. Complete a research project or develop an artistic product that incorporates newly acquired and prior information and is delivered in a medium appropriate to the discipline and intended audience. (GE-NJ IL, NJ1)
6. Cite sources, compile a bibliography, and make consistent and correct use of a citation style appropriate to the discipline (GE-NJ IL)

**(\*Embedded critical thinking)**

### **B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

State the **learning outcomes** for the academic course.

For example:

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. explain and present all aspects of their English capstone project.

### **C. Assessment Instruments**

1. research process
2. final capstone product
3. capstone project presentation

## **VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. research process
- B. completion of agreed upon timeline deadlines
- C. revisions of drafts and/or review of artistic process
- D. final capstone product oral presentation

Given the goals and outcomes described above, the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. computer-assisted instruction
- D. guest speakers and lecturers
- E. student oral presentations
- F. student-faculty collaboration
- G. independent study and research

### **VIII. Texts and Materials**

Any texts and materials will be dependent upon individual capstone project requirements.

### **IX. Resources (may include any of the following):**

- A. databases
- B. archives
- C. museums/performances
- D. subject matter experts