

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

ENVI 105 Foundations for Environmental Success

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ENVI 105 Foundations for Environmental Success

B. New or Modified Course: New

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2022

D. Effective Term: Fall 2022

E. Sponsoring Department: Science & Engineering

F. Semester Credit Hours: 1

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 2 Lecture: 2
Laboratory: 0
Out of class student work per week: 4

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: None

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Dr. Marianne Baricevic, marianne.baricevic@raritanval.edu;
Dean Sarah Imbriglio, sarah.imbriglio@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Offered in the Fall only.

Prerequisites: None.

This course is designed to orient students to the Environmental Studies and Science academic programs at RVCC. This will include introducing students to various areas of environmental interest and identifying academic and career pathways for achieving these goals. Students will be introduced to campus infrastructure and community resources for supporting their academic and professional development. These resources include guest lectures by local environmental professionals, field trips and service learning activities to encourage and facilitate student engagement. Students will practice foundational skills, such as communication and collaborative group work, which they will need to be successful in future field and laboratory courses.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This course is designed to introduce students to the A.A. Environmental Studies and A.S. Environmental Science academic programs at RVCC. The course will help build cohorts of environmental majors to improve retention and inclusion in the college's environmental academic programs. The course will also serve as a discipline-specific student success course by assisting students in developing basic study skills and individual academic plans, and orienting students to general and discipline-specific resources on- and off-campus.
- B. This course does not have a lab component.
- C. Transferability of the course.
 - 1. This course does not transfer as a general education course.
 - 2. This course generally transfers as a program requirement for academic programs that require a student skills and/or student success course or an environmental/ecology orientation course.
 - 3. This course generally transfers as a 1-credit environmental or ecology elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective.
- B. This course does not serve as a General Education course.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for the A.A. Liberal Arts (Environmental Studies) and A.S. Environmental Science degrees.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Orientation to RVCC and environmental studies/science academic programs
 - 1. Introduction to RVCC Student Services (i.e., Academic Support Center, Center for Accessibility and Inclusive Education, Career and Transfer Services, Service Learning, etc.)
 - 2. Introduction to RVCC's environmental programs and resources
 - a. Discussing environmental courses and developing academic plan
 - b. Introduction to on-campus environmental facilities and resources (i.e., paid internships, greenhouse, Water Quality Laboratory, etc.)
 - 3. Student groups and opportunities for campus engagement (e.g., Environmental Club, Student Government, etc.)
- B. Community environmental resources and opportunities for engagement
 - 1. Field trips to local environmental organizations

2. Service learning in partnership with local environmental organizations
3. Guest lectures by local environmental professionals
- C. Communication, collaboration, and cohort building exercises
 1. Weekend field trip
 2. Orienteering exercise

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Use appropriate forms of technology to identify, collect, and analyze information (GE-4)
2. Evaluate and think critically about information. (GE- IL)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the services and resources available at RVCC that support student success and promote professional growth.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of on- and off-campus resources and opportunities available to students pursuing environmental degrees and careers.

C. Assessment Instruments

Given the outcomes described above, the following assessment methods may be used:

1. essays
2. journals
3. discussions
4. group projects

VII. Grade Determinants

The following may be used to determine the final grade:

- A. essays
- B. journals
- C. presentations
- D. homework assignments
- E. participation in exercises and discussions
- F. service learning

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course include:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work

- C. computer-assisted instruction
- D. guest speakers
- E. student oral presentations
- F. student collaboration

VIII. Texts and Materials

The following types of course materials may be used:

- A. podcast interviews
- B. videos
- C. internet databases and information sources
- D. guest speakers

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

- A. RVCC passenger van
- B. Natural areas on campus
- C. Campus greenhouse
- D. RVCC Water Quality Laboratory
- E. Library databases and collections
- F. RVCC Student Services

X. Honors Options

Not applicable.