RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE  

HMNS 105 INTRODUCTION TO ADDICTION  

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION  

A. Course Number and Title:  INTRODUCTION TO ADDICTION (HMNS 105)  
B. New or Modified Course:  New  
C. Date of Proposal:  Semester: Spring  Year: 2011  
D. Sponsoring Department:  Humanities, Social Science & Education  
E. Semester Credit Hours:  3  
F. Weekly Contact Hours:  Lecture: 3  
Laboratory: 0  
G. Prerequisites/Corequisites:  None  
H. Laboratory Fees:  None  
I. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair:  
Kimberley Schirner, kschirne@raritanval.edu  

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:  

This course will enable students to understand the various historical and cultural perspectives on drug use, abuse and dependency. It will allow students to examine drug use in society from a broad variety of perspectives including biological, psychological and social theories and research. The course will introduce students to the nature of chemical abuse phenomena and various risks from within a broad range of social and cultural context. It will introduce students to categories and broad range of effects of mind and mood altering substances. This course will emphasize critical thinking and problem solving. Students will gain knowledge necessary to provide important information on the psychological, biological, and social aspects of drug abuse and addiction for clients, families, as well as, for human, health and criminal justice service providers.  

III. STATEMENT OF COURSE NEED 

The field of addiction and substance abuse treatment is expected to grow far faster than most other areas of mental health and human services through 2018. Service providers in the Somerset and Hunterdon County area, as well as the NJ Board of Examiners for Addiction Professionals report a growing need for programs approved to provide the coursework required for certification as an alcohol and drug counselor (CADC). As many as 1/3 of currently enrolled students in the Human Service/Pre-Social Work program express a specific desire to enter into the substance abuse treatment field. Hence,
the development of a specific option in addiction studies within the degree program is compelling in response to both the local labor market and our student population.

IV. PLACE OF COURSE IN COLLEGE CURRICULUM

A. Free elective
B. This course meets a specialized human service elective option for the A.A in Human Services/Pre-Social Work, A.A.S. in Human Services degree, Certificate in Human Services or the Certificate of Completion in Human Services.
C. Course transferability; for New Jersey schools go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org. For all other colleges and universities go to their individual websites.

V. OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT

A. Short History of Drugs
B. Explaining Drugs of Abuse
   1. Biological Impact
   2. Psychological Impact
   3. Sociological Impact
   4. Cultural Impact
C. Drug Use and the Law
   1. Sociocultural attitudes towards drugs
   2. Regulations and FDA
   3. Legal deterrence
   4. Controversy: legalization, drug testing
D. Basic Psychopharmacology
E. Drug Categories
   1. Sedative Hypnotic Drugs – types, history, patterns of abuse
   2. Alcohol – Pharmacology, physical effects, BAC, Fetal Alcohol syndrome
   3. Opiates & Stimulants-types, history, patterns of abuse, pharmacology
   4. Narcotics - types, history, patterns of abuse, pharmacology
   5. Tobacco - types, history, patterns of abuse, pharmacology
   6. Hallucinogens - types, history, patterns of abuse, pharmacology
F. Addictive behavior and drug dependency
   1. Defining addiction
   2. Models of addiction
   3. Risk factors for addiction
   4. Stages and phases of addiction
G. Special Populations
   1. Gender
   2. Age
   3. Ethnicity
   4. Students and Athletes
   5. Sexual Orientation
   6. HIV
H. Treatment
   1. History of treatment
   2. Types of treatment
   3. Modalities for treatment
   4. Principles of effective treatment

I. Legal Standards
   1. Confidentiality Regulations and HIPPA
   2. Substance Abuse and the Law

J. Wellness and Recovery – WRAP for Co-Occurring Disorders

K. Personal Development
   1. 12 CORE Functions
   2. Professional Organizations
   3. Using Clinical Supervision

VI. EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. Educational Goals

   Students will:
   1. analyze and discuss the dynamics of addiction as a social phenomenon (GE-NJ 5).
   2. identify different drugs and mind-altering substances by their classification, pharmacology and effects orally and in writing (GE-NJ 1).
   3. gather and use social science data to understand the social and economic impact of addiction and substance abuse (GE-NJ 4).

B. Learning Outcomes

   Students will be able to:
   1. Demonstrate a basic biological, psychological and sociological knowledge of the causes and effects of addictions on individuals, families and society.
   2. Describe the pharmacology of addictive substances such as opiates, stimulants, sedatives, alcohol, etc.
   3. Identify treatment approaches appropriate to specific addictions and client circumstances.
   5. Identify populations at risk of substance abuse.

VII. MODES OF TEACHING and LEARNING

   A. lecture/discussion
   B. small group work
   C. student collaboration
   D. film and video

VIII. PAPERS, EXAMINATIONS and other ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

   A. term paper
   B. reflection papers
   C. exams
IX. GRADE DETERMINANTS

A. term paper
B. exams
C. short written assignments

X. TEXT and MATERIALS


(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.)

XI. RESOURCES

A. text
B. library databases
C. computer access