

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**HMNS -204 WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN THE CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM**

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

A. Course: HMNS-204 Women and Minorities in the Criminal Justice System

B. Date of Proposal: Spring 2007

C. Sponsoring Department: Social Sciences, Humanities and Education

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3

E. Weekly Contact Hours: 3

G. Prerequisites: Introduction to Sociology (SOCL 101) or Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRMJ 101)

H. Laboratory Fees: 0

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Prerequisites: Introduction to Sociology (SOCL 101) or Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRMJ 101)

This course provides in-depth examination of changing social values about gender and race, an analysis of crime, inequality and justice, a survey of women and minorities in law enforcement, an assessment of women and minorities as criminals and as victims, and an investigation of the impact of race and gender in adjudication and sentencing. Special topics such as hate crimes, sexual crimes and domestic violence will be examined.

III. STATEMENT OF COURSE NEED

This course helps to meet the goal of creating more diversification in course offerings and examines an important area of criminal justice, the experience of women and minorities.

IV. PLACE OF COURSE IN CURRICULUM

A.

- Cross listed in Human Services and Criminal Justice where it is an elective in both programs.
- It is an elective in the Women and Gender Certificate program
- It satisfies a diversity requirement

V. OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT

- Introduction: women and minorities as offenders, victims and practitioners
- Conceptualizing and investigating difference
- Privilege and the construction of crime
- Hate crimes
- Equity and equality laws
- Crime: poverty and wealth
- Crime and violence
- Categories of difference (offenders and victims): social class, race, gender, ethnicity, sexuality and age
- Women and minorities in jails and prisons
- Women and minorities as criminal justice professionals
- Women, minorities and public policy

VI. GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Educational Goals

Students will:

- develop an understanding of how social locators such as race, ethnicity, gender, age and social class influence one's perspectives and experiences in the criminal justice system (G. E. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7);
- understand how inequality impacts on the criminal justice system in the United States (G. E. 3, 5, and 7):
- articulate the relationship between inequality and social locators (G. E. 3, 5, and 7);

- understand the nature of hate crimes, sexual crimes and domestic violence crimes (G. E. 2, 3, 5, and 7); and
- recognize the implications of policy decisions on minority groups and the criminal justice system (G. E. 5, 6 and 7).

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- describe the intersection of social class, race, gender, ethnicity and age intersect in societal and criminal justice relationships;
- explain the relationship between inequality, crime and justice and examine the intersections of privilege and inequality;
- explore the role of women and minorities as offenders, victims and criminal justice professionals analyze the prison environment for women and minorities;
- understand the nature of hate crimes, sexual crimes and domestic violence crimes; and
- evaluate public policy as it related to crime and justice.

VII. MODES OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

The course will use the following methods of teaching:

- lecture/discussion
- guest speakers
- debates
- small group work
- movies and videos
- student group work

VIII. PAPERS, EXAMINATIONS, AND OTHER ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS

The following assessment methods will be used:

- essay examinations (midterm and final)
- response papers
- debates
- term paper
- case studies

IX. GRADE DETERMINANTS

Grades will be determined based on scores on participation, quizzes and exams, short papers and a longer research paper.

- Class participation
- Individual and group presentations
- Short papers and research paper will assess
- Quizzes and Examinations

X. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Recommended Textbooks

- A. Gregg Barak, Jeanne M. Flavin, and Paul S. Leighton, Class, Race Gender, and Crime Roxbury Publishing Company, 2001
- B. Charles E. Reasons, Darlene J. Conley, and Julius Debro, Race, Class, Gender, and Justice in the United States (A Text-Reader), Allyn and Bacon, 2002
- C. Katherine Stuart Van Wormer and Clemens Bartollas, Women and the Criminal Justice System, Allyn and Bacon, 2000

Other Required Materials: Articles from professional journals reproduced.

XI. Resources

Students will need access to sociological databases in order to locate and retrieve journal articles for research related to various topics in the field. Online databases and journals are acceptable as long as students are able to access full-text online articles from peer-reviewed research journals.