RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI 101 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

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

D. Effective Term: Fall 2017

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours:
   Lecture: 3
   Laboratory: 0
   Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of approval: Dr. Stephen Kaufman, skaufman@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites/Corequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

Introduction to Sociology is a systematic investigation of the basic concepts and principles of sociology with emphasis on culture, social relationships, groups, institutions and social structure.
III. Statement of Course Need

A. The course provides students with an introduction to one of the social sciences, thereby satisfying a necessary or general program requirement. It also meets the State and College guidelines as a general education requirement.

B. No lab component

C. This course transfers as a Social Science General Education course.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. This course serves as a General Education course in Social Sciences.
C. This course meets a program requirement for… -- many programs are missing (see full list below)
   - Criminal Justice (AA)
   - Nursing, RN (AAS) & Nursing PN/AD (AAS)
   - Human Services/Pre-Social Work (AS)
   - Human Services (AAS and Certificate)
   - Liberal Arts – Social Science Option (AA)
   - Liberal Arts – Women & Gender Studies Option (AA)
   - Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Treatment (AS)
   - Exercise Science (AS)
   - Exercise Science – Sports Management Option (AS)
   - Early Childhood Education (AAS)
   - Emergency Services (AS)
   - Emergency Services, Fire Science Option (AS)
   - Health Science (S)
D. The course is a prerequisite for other sociology courses.
E. 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

The course consists of five major subject groups.

A. Theory and Research in Sociology
   1. The Sociological Perspective
   2. The Methods of Research in Sociology
B. Individual and Group Behavior:
   1. Culture
   2. Socialization
1. Social Groups and Social Interaction

C. Stratification and Conflict
   1. Deviance and Social control
   2. Social Stratification in the United States
   3. Global Stratification
   4. Race and Ethnic Relations
   5. Gender Inequality
   6. Aging and Disabilities

D. Social Institutions
   1. The Family and Sexuality
   2. Work and the Economy
   3. Politics and Government
   4. Religion
   5. Education
   6. Media
   7. Health and Medicine

E. Social Change
   1. Population, Urbanization and the Environment
   2. Collective Behavior and Social Movements
   3. Social Change

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

   At the completion of the course, students will be able to:
   1. Apply sociology concepts and theories to everyday life. (Core SLO)
   2. Describe how sociologists conduct research. (Core SLO)
   3. Identify relationships between the individual and society. (Core SLO)
   4. Analyze factors contributing to social inequality and its consequences. (Core SLO)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

   Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

   1. Compare, contrast, and apply the basic theoretical paradigms of sociology and apply them and define the steps of the research process and evaluate claims in terms of validity, reliability, appropriate research methodology, and practical application.
   2. Define, identify, and explain culture, socialization, social interaction, groups, and social organization as basic building blocks of society and social
experience and to apply this knowledge to explain why people conform to or deviate from societal expectations.
3. Explain social stratification using various theoretical perspectives to analyze economic, age, racial/ethnic, and gender inequality in a societal context.
4. Explain and provide example of social structure and to be able to express how important social institutions (such as family, religion, education, medicine, and others) shape society and social experience.
5. Identify and interpret the impact of basic demographic trends in society and discuss mechanisms of social change.
6. Integrate concepts and theories used in sociology to in sociology to analyze a public policy or contemporary social issue.

C. Assessment Instruments

1. lecture/discussion
2. small-group work
3. student oral presentations
4. essays
5. term papers

VII. Grade Determinants

Grade determinants:
A. essays
B. projects and/or term papers
C. tests
D. presentations

Primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:
A. lecture/discussion
B. small-group work
C. student oral presentations
D. simulation/role playing
E. student collaboration

VIII. Texts and Materials

Schaefer, Sociology in Modules (3rd Edition)

The following statement should be included in the outline:
(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

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.

X. Honors Options [if relevant]

Prerequisites: Minimum GPA of 3.5 or permission of the instructor. (According to the Honors Council, an Honors course is one that enriches and challenges students beyond a course’s regular scope and curriculum. An Honors course will offer a sophisticated use of research, introduce intellectually stimulating readings and critical perspectives, promote a higher level of critical discussion and written work, and encourage independent study projects, at the option of the instructor.)

The following states how the Honors Option of this course conforms to this definition:

A. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes: In addition to those learning outcomes listed above, honors students will be able to do the following:
   a. Develop a methodological practice of gathering, sifting, analyzing, ordering, synthesizing, and interpreting evidence.
   b. Write effective narrative that describes and analyzes current societal issues.

B. Honors Option Content: Advanced reading, presentation, research project and paper.

C. Assessment Instruments for Honors Option Work: Guided research.

D. Grade Determinants for Honors Option Work: Research paper and/or presentation.