RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

SOC 101H-INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY-HONORS

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: SOC101H Introduction To Sociology-Honors
B. New or Modified Course: Modified
C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2011
D. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education
E. Semester Credit Hours: 3.0
F. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3 Laboratory: 0
G. Prerequisites/Co-requisites: GPA of 3.5 or permission of Instructor
H. Laboratory Fees: None
I. Dept. Chair: Karen Gutshall kgutshall@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: GPA of 3.5 or permission of instructor. Sociologists have a unique perspective that enables individuals to understand how larger social forces influence our personal experiences. Students who take Introduction to Sociology Honors will be provided with this perspective which they will then use to examine contemporary American society. A variety of source materials will be used to examine important social issues including the American class structure, deviance and conformity, the changing American family, and the relationship between economic and political power. As globalization increasingly shapes our lives, cross cultural data will be used for comparative and informative purposes.

III. Statement of Course Need

This course will provide Honors students with an introduction to Sociology, the discipline that seeks to understand the relationship between individual and social behavior. The course is part of the Honors College curriculum and will provide advanced students with a more rigorous overview than generally occurs in the standard course. Introduction to Sociology Honors is highly transferable.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. This course serves as a General Education course in Social Science
C. This course meets a program requirement for the Honors College
D. This course meets a program requirement for:
   1. AA Criminal Justice
   2. AAS Early Childhood Education
   3. AAS Emergency Services
   4. AAS Emergency Services Fire Science Option
   5. AS Exercise Science
   6. AS Health Science
   7. AAS Human Services
   8. Human Services Certificate
   9. AAS Law Enforcement
   10. AA Human Services (Pre Social Work Option)
   11. AA Liberal Arts (Social Science Option)
   12. AA Liberal Arts (Women and Gender Studies Option)
   13. AAS Nursing RN
   14. AAS Nursing PNAD
   15. AAS Technical Studies
   16. Program elective for AA Education P-5 and AA Education 5-12

E. Course transferability: This course generally transfers as a Sociology course or as a Social Science Gen. Ed. course. For NJ colleges: www.transfer.org For out of state check individual websites

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Sociological Theories and Methods
B. Culture and Society
C. Socialization and the Life Course
D. Groups and Organizations
E. Deviance and Conformity
F. Social Stratification
G. Gender Inequality
H. Ethnicity and Race
I. Sociology of Families
J. Sociology of Education
K. Sociology of Religion
L. Population and the Environment
M. Globalization

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. Educational Goals

Students will:
1. Develop an appreciation of the complexity of human behavior and its multiple contributing factors (GE-NJ5)
2. Write a research paper that demonstrates the ability to analyze, synthesize and evaluate primary source materials (GE-NJ1)

**B. Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to:

1. Explain the conflict, functionalist, and interactionist perspectives in Sociology.
2. Identify the steps in the Social Science research process.
3. Explain the functions and organization of the major institutions (family, health care, education, politics, religion, the economy) and how these institutions interrelate with one another. (Goal #1, Goal #2)
4. Examine the nature of social stratification in The United States and debate the reasons for why this stratification persists. Examine how inequality in the United States differs from inequality found in other societies.
5. Examine the characteristics of culture and the interrelationship between genetics and the social environment. (Goal #1)
6. Analyze stages in the socialization process and discuss how socialization relates to values, gender roles, political attitudes, religious affiliation, and an individual’s world view. (Goal #1)
7. Explain the differences between conformity and deviance and identify how deviance is classified and contextually determined. (Goal #2)

**VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning**

A. Lecture/discussion  
B. Student oral presentations  
C. Independent study  
D. Guest speakers  
E. Small group work

**VIII. Papers, Exams, and other Assessment Instruments**

A. Exams  
B. Research papers  
C. In class presentations  
D. Scholarly article reviews  
E. Response Papers

**IX. Grade Determinants**

A. Exams
B. Response Papers  
C. Oral Presentations  

X. Suggested Text and Materials  
A. Essentials of Sociology (3rd ed.) Giddens, Duneier, Applebaum, Carr  
B. The Practical Skeptic- Readings in Sociology (5th ed) McIntyre  
C. The New York Times  

Please note that 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 source of information about textbooks.