RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI 201: Contemporary Social Problems

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: SOCI 201: Contemporary Social Problems

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2012

D. Sponsoring Department: Social Sciences

E. Semester Credit Hours: 3

F. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3

G. Prerequisite: SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology

H. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair:
   Karen Gutshall, kgutshal@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology
This course will examine major American and Global social problems. Some of
the topics examined include climate change, urban decay and sprawl, economic
and racial inequality, gender roles, massive incarceration, war, and repression.

A successful learner will be able to apply sociological concepts to the analysis
and explication of social problems in order to act effectively as engaged citizenry.

III. Statement of Course Need

The course allows students who have taken the Introduction to Sociology course to
further pursue their studies in Sociology. This course transfers to all NJ colleges
except NJIT and Princeton. 25 colleges accept the course as meeting a general
education requirement. 9 colleges accept the course but not as Gen Ed. The course
does not fulfill Gen Ed requirements at RVCC.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum
A. This course fulfills the requirement for a second year Social Science elective in the Liberal Arts-Social Science Option and is a program requirement for the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Human Services.
B. To see course transferability for New Jersey colleges and universities, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; for other colleges and universities, go to the individual college website.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. The Sociology of Social Problems
   1. What is a Social Problem?
   2. The Sociological Imagination
   3. The Intersection of the Individual and the Institutional
      a. Economic Inequality
      b. Climate Change
      c. Discrimination (race, gender, sexuality)

B. The Bases of Inequality
   1. Social Class
   2. Gender and Sexuality
   3. Race and Ethnicity

C. Responses and Solutions
   1. Community Organizing
   2. Governmental Policy
   3. Individual Action

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. Educational Goals

Students will:
1. Develop an understanding of the roots of American and global social problems by analyzing a problem and draw conclusions based on evidence (GE- NJ 5, 8, ER).
2. Utilize theories and concepts that enable them to analyze social issues rooted in individual and institutional relations (GE- NJ 5, 7, ER, IL).
3. Comprehend the social and global context that links individual perspectives to historical conditions (GE- NJ 1, 5, 7, 8, ER).
4. Apply evidence-based solutions to social and global problems (GE- NJ 1, 5, 8, ER, IL)

B. Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:
1. Research and produce a written evaluation of a social and/or global problem (Goal 1, 2, 3, 4).
2. Compare and contrast diverse scholarly sources and critically evaluate their solutions to social and global problems (Goal 1, 3, 4).
3. Describe and discuss social problems from a social, historical, and ethical perspective (Goal 1, 2, 3).
4. State and link the structural causes and cultural practices of social problems (Goal 1, 2, 4).

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. lecture/discussion
B. small-group work
C. guest speakers
D. student oral presentations
E. simulation/role playing
F. student collaboration
G. Instructional media platforms

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. research papers (LO- 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9)
B. demonstrations (LO- 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
C. essays (LO- 3, 5, 7, 8, 9)
D. journals (LO- 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

IX. Grade Determinants

A. essays
B. projects
C. papers
D. presentations

X. Texts and Materials

A. Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action,
   Anna Leon-Guerrero. Pine Forge Press 2011

(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. Library with research tools
B. Photocopy machine
C. WiFi
D. Computer lab