RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

COMM-296H
COMMUNICATION HONORS RESEARCH CAPSTONE

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: COMM-296H COMMUNICATION HONORS RESEARCH CAPSTONE

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2022

D. Effective Term: Fall 2023

E. Sponsoring Department: Communication and Languages Department for the Honors College

F. Semester Credit Hours**: 3**

G. Weekly Contact Hours**:**   Lecture**:**
                                       Laboratory**:**
                                       Out-of-class student work per week:
                                       Independent Research: 135 hours total

H. ☒ Prerequisite (s): Student must be enrolled in his or her last Honors College academic year before graduation.
     ☐ Corequisite (s):
     ☐ Prerequisite (s) and Corequisite (s):

I. Additional Fees**:**

J. Name and E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval**: Richard Treut, ext. 8429, Bick.Treut@raritanval.edu; Director of Honors College, Greg DeSanctis, ext. 8966, Greg.DeSanctis@raritanval.edu; Dean Patrice Marks, ext. 8802, Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu**

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in their last Honors College academic year before graduation.

This course is intended to guide sophomore Honors College students through the stages of conducting a semester-long documented research project, which can be presented in either oral or written form. Students will become acquainted with the process of planning, researching, framing ethical arguments, organization, and effective oral presentations. Areas of research may include public speaking, mass communication, interpersonal communication, or organizational and technical communication.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. Research on the value of intensive undergraduate research experiences abounds, and requiring enrollment in this research capstone will provide RVCC Honors College students with: a strong student-faculty collaboration and scholarship; original research to the discipline; an understanding of intensive research in preparation for classes in the major or for more intensive graduate school research; and a high profile project that will aid in transfer applications.

Class will consist of five major components: library instruction, research and guidance with faculty members, group discussions on topics and progress, the final written (or artistic) project, and a formal presentation.

B. This course has no lab component.

C. This course is not designed for transfer, yet dependent on the transfer institution may transfer as a Communication Studies program elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. This course does not meet a General Education requirement.
C. This course meets a program requirement for the Honors College.
D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

Class will consist of the following major components:

1. Information literacy instruction to support research in communication studies
2. Advanced communication studies topic exploration
3. Literature research utilizing discipline-specific information sources, databases, interlibrary loans, etc.

4. Background research and discussion of the capstone topic with the capstone communication studies faculty advisor to create a timeline of completion
5. Develop methods to understand and analyze the communication studies research topic
6. Application of communication studies research topic and results to relevant situations
7. Research and guidance with capstone communication studies faculty advisor via weekly consultations to discuss results, assess progress, and adjust the timeline as needed.
8. The final communication studies capstone project
9. A formal oral capstone presentation (Capstone Day).

VI.   A. <u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Logically and persuasively state and support orally and in writing their findings from the research or creative project. (GE-1, *)
2. Evaluate the relevance and authority of information. (GE-IL)
3. Create and revise drafts and/or review artistic processes to address capstone objectives and employ standard-appropriate editing practices for the specified discipline. (GE-1)
4. Use discipline-specific information sources and/or databases to better understand the research topic and find existing research in the field. (GE-IL)
5. Complete a research project or develop an artistic product that incorporates newly acquired and prior information and is delivered in a medium appropriate to the discipline and intended audience. (GE-IL, GE-1)
6. Cite sources, compile a bibliography, and make consistent and correct use of a citation style appropriate to the discipline (GE-IL)

(*Embedded critical thinking)

B. <u>Assessment Instruments</u>
1. research process
2. final capstone product
3. capstone project presentation

VII. Grade Determinants

A. research process
B. completion of agreed-upon timeline deadlines
C. revisions of drafts and/or review of the artistic process
D. final capstone product oral presentation

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:
A. lecture/discussion
B. small-group work

     C. computer-assisted instruction
     D. guest speakers and lecturers
     E. student oral presentations
     F. student-faculty collaboration
     G. independent study and research

VIII. Texts and Materials

Any texts and materials will be dependent upon individual capstone project requirements.

(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 (may include any of the following):

     A. databases
     B. archives
     C. museums/performances
     D. subject matter experts