

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**CRMJ-232 CRIMINAL LAW**

**I. Basic Course Information**

- A. Course Number and Title: CRMJ-232 Criminal Law
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2023
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2023
- E. Sponsoring Department: Business and Public Service
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3.0
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3 hours  
A. Laboratory: None  
Out of class student work per week: 6 hours
- H. ☐ Prerequisite (s) None  
☐ Corequisite (s): None  
☐ Prerequisite (s) and Corequisite (s): None
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Tracy Rimple, tracy.rimple@raritanval.edu Dean Patrice Marks, Patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

**II. Catalog Description**

The course is an in-depth analysis of the history and evolution of criminal law and the complex adjudication process. It explores in-depth the mechanics of criminal law to include: the criminal act, criminal intent and the concurrence of the two principles. Issues relative to criminal liability, defenses to criminal liability and parties to criminal liability will be examined. General criminal law principles will be compared to the New Jersey Criminal Code, Title 2C.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. This course is part of a comprehensive curriculum that seeks to analyze the complex adjudication process through examination of the criminal law components. Towards this end, this course plays an integral part towards understanding the substantive law.
- B. No lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a Criminal Justice course or as an elective.

### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course meets a program requirement for the Criminal Justice AS degree
- C. 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**

- A. The nature of criminal law and punishment
- B. Constitutional limits on criminal law
- C. Elements of criminal liability
- D. Defenses to criminal liability
- E. Parties to criminal liability
- F. Crimes against persons
- G. Crimes against property

### **VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. Communicate in writing and/or orally an understanding of various behaviors that are considered criminal. (GE- 1)
2. Connect how society behavioral changes and political factors affect criminal laws and punishment. (GE-5)

### **C. Assessment Instruments**

1. Examination/Quizzes
2. Research papers
3. Class participation
4. Written assignments

## **VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. Examinations/Quizzes
- B. Written Assignments
- C. Class Participation
- D. Service Learning Option

Modes of teaching and learning used in this course:

- A. Lecture/discussion
- B. Student writing assignments
- C. Student oral presentations
- D. Simulation/role playing
- E. Guest Speakers

## **VIII. Texts and Materials**

**Required Text:** Criminal Law, By Joel Samaha, Published by Cengage Learning. Latest edition

(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**

N/A

## **X. Honors Options**

N/A