RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 291: MASCULINITY IN LITERATURE

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 291 Masculinity in Literature

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

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

D. Effective Term: Fall 2017

E. Sponsoring Department: English

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3

Laboratory: 0

Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: ENGL 111 English Composition I

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of approval: Susan Arvay, Susan.Arvay@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I. This course explores literature that has questioned, resisted, and/or subverted traditional notions of masculinity. Assigned texts may include novels, memoirs, poetry, films, and studies of historical/cultural contexts. The course will analyze themes such as identity, independence, competition, violence, and the intersections between gender, race, class, and sexual orientation.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. Masculinity in Literature provides students the opportunity to study literature that explicitly examines what it means to be male and how masculinity is socially constructed. It is a course that is increasingly included in the curriculum of college English departments.

- **B.** This course does not have a Lab component.
- **C.** This course generally transfers as a Humanities/English Literature or Global and Cultural Awareness general education course.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/English Literature and Global Cultural Awareness
- C. This course meets a diversity-based or interdisciplinary elective requirement in the English AA degree and serves as an Option Elective in the Women and Gender Studies Option of the AA Liberal Arts program.
- 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

- A. The Social Construction of Gender
- B. Male Gender Socialization
- C. Male Gender Norms in America: 1700-1800
- D. Male Gender Norms in America: 1800-1900
- E. Male Gender Norms in America: 1900-present
- F. Literature of Boyhood: Exploring Male Gender Norms of Boys and Young Men
- G. Literature of Working Men: Exploring Intersections of Economic Class and Masculinity
- H. Literature of Daring Men: Exploring Masculine Gender Pressures of Danger and Risk
- I. Literature of Racialized Masculinity: Exploring Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

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

- 1. Analyze literary and cultural texts with regard to their representations of masculinity within the historical and social context of gender, both orally and in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, 8, *)
- 2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)

- 3. Demonstrate how representations of masculinity in literature and cultural texts respond to historical events and social structures, and are influenced by their time period, culture, and economic/social perspective (GE-NJ 1, 7, 8)
- 4. Assess and utilize commonly accepted approaches and criteria for analyzing literary works (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)
- 5. Explain key characteristics of historical periods and cultures with regard to representations of masculinity (GE-NJ 8)
- 6. Identify recurrent themes, concerns, and tensions in literary and popular cultural representations of masculinity (GE-NJ 8)

(*Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

SEE ABOVE

C. Assessment Instruments

Given the outcomes described above, the following assessment methods may be used:

- 1. research papers
- 2. demonstrations
- 3. essays
- 4. journals
- 5. response papers
- 6. discussion questions
- 7. exams

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Essays that communicate effectively in standard English with attention to grammar, mechanics, and the finer points of writing style
- B. projects
- C. exams
- D. presentations
- E. discussion questions
- F. reading quizzes
- G. class participation
- H. journals
- I. response papers

Given the goals and outcomes described above, the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course include:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study

VIII. Texts and Materials

Samples of specific texts are:

Historical/Theoretical:

- A. Susan Faludi, Stiffed: The Betrayal of the American Man
- B. Michael Kimmel, Angry White Men: American Masculinity at the End of an Era
- C. Michael Kimmel, Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men
- D. Michael Kimmel, American Manhood: A Cultural History
- E. Clifford Putney, Muscular Christianity: Manhood and Sports in Protestant America, 1880-1920
- F. Theodore Roosevelt, The Rough Riders
- G. Michael Rotundo, American Manhood: Transformations in Masculinity from the American Revolution to the Modern Era
- H. Michael Thompson, Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Lives of Boys

Literary:

- A. Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*
- B. Junot Diaz, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
- C. Ian Fleming, You Only Live Twice
- D. William Golding, Lord of the Flies
- E. Chuck Palahniuk, Fight Club
- F. Charles Rice-Gonzalez, Chulito
- G. Richard Wright, Native Son

(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 to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments if the individual instructor chooses to assign a research project.

X. Honors Options

There is no Honors Option for this course.