RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

GEOG – 102 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: GEOG 102
Introduction to Cultural Geography

B. Date of Proposal or Revision: Spring 2007

C. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences & Education

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits

E. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3

Laboratory: 0

F. Prerequisites: None

G. Laboratory Fees: N/A

II. Catalog Description

The course examines the relationship between humans and the physical and biological landscape with which they interact. Special emphasis is placed on the ways in which humans cultural features are distributed across the globe including their patterns of adaptation to their physical and social environments.

III. Statement of Course Need

The course is one of two general introductory courses in geography and is one of two standard courses in the field of geography.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- This course fulfills a social science elective in General Education.
- Can be used as a free elective.

Course transferability: This course should transfer as a social science course and as part of the General Education curriculum.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Geography as a discipline
- B. The Origins of Humans
- C. Human Cultural Evolution
- D. Cultural Ecology
- E. The Geography of Population
- F. The Geography of Human Movement
- G. Rural Landscapes
- H. Urban Landscapes
- I. The Geography of "Race" and Ethnicity
- J. The Geography of Language
- K. The Geography of Religion
- L. The Geography of Political Systems
- M. Globalization and Change

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

Educational Goals

Students will:

- 1. use the information provided by different disciplines to understand better the processes which shape human social forms across the earth(GE 4)
- 2. use computation skills to assess the patterns of distributions of cultural features. (GE 7)
- 3. recognize the ethical issues concerning the collection and use of such data(GE 5)
- 4. provide explanations for the distribution of socio-cultural forms. The issue is simply patterns and process (GE 1)
- 5. determine what evidence may be needed to evaluate different theories to explain such similarities and differences (GE 1)

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- 1. Cite the different stages of human evolution
- 2. Cite the major technological accomplishments of each stage
- 3. Define cultural ecology and cite two examples
- 4. Describe how culture is the adaptive dimension for both the physical and social landscapes
- 5. Describe the general patterns of human growth over the last 100,000 years
- 6. Discuss the reasons for the rapid growth of human populations over the past 10,000 years
- 7. Describe the general patterns of population distribution
- 8. Describe the general patterns of "racial and ethnic distribution
- 9. Describe the general patterns of linguistic distribution

- 10. Describe the general patterns of religious systems distribution
- 11. Describe the general patterns of political systems distribution
- 12. Cite the major changes that have occurred in the various systems above as a consequence of regionalism and now globalization

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning may include:

- lecture/discussion
- individual or small-group exercises
- independent study
- field visits
- film

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

Assessment methods used may be:

- class participation
- written examinations

IX. Grade Determinants

In order to evaluate achievement of the goals and outcomes listed above, possible grade determinants may include:

- active participation in class discussions
- three examinations
- map quiz
- laboratory exercises

X. Texts and Materials

Sample of a specific text that may be used:

Rubenstein, James

An Introduction to Human Geography, Pearson Education, Upper Saddle River, NJ ISBN0-13-046023-0

XI. Resources

- Library for reserve materials
- Computer access for visual; examination of fossils and contemporary primates
- Field visits to zoo and/or museum
- Guest speakers from various disciplines and community services

Revised 1/29/07