RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

SSCI 101 Technological Literacy Across the Social Sciences

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: **SSCI 101 Technological Literacy Across the Social Sciences**

B. New or Modified Course: **New**

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: **Fall** Year: **2018**

D. Effective Term: Fall 2019

E. Sponsoring Department: **Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work & Education**

F. Semester Credit Hours: **2**

G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: **2**
Laboratory: **1**
Out of class student work per week: **4.5**

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: **Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher, and MATH 020 Elementary Algebra**

I. Laboratory Fees: **Yes**

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: **Brandyn Heppard, Brandyn.Heppard@raritanval.edu (Department Chair); Patrice Marks, Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu (Divisional Dean)**

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites/Corequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher, and MATH 020 Elementary Algebra

This multidisciplinary course introduces students to the critical analysis and technical aspects of information related to the social sciences. Students will learn how to identify and address an area of examination, to collect information by conducting online literature reviews and by gathering data, to process and critically examine the information they encounter, and to effectively communicate information. Students will develop computer skills to identify, collect, process, and present social sciences information. They will learn how to use specialized databases, word and data processing programs, spreadsheets, and multimedia software for oral presentations. Students will also learn to use computers and information ethically. As a multidisciplinary course, this course uses data and information from, but not limited to, the following disciplines: anthropology, political science, psychology, sociology, and social work.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. The skills required in this course will help students throughout their college career by teaching students how to work with computers, conduct literature reviews for class assignments, find data and information, use Word to type their assignments, organize and analyze information in Excel, use multimedia software for oral presentations, and to become critical thinkers of the information they encounter. Additionally, this course will help prepare students with future careers in social sciences, social studies, and other fields that focus on the human experience by familiarizing students with databases in the social sciences. Employers that hire former students from the social sciences often require skills in information retrieval, information analysis, and information creation used for examining human populations, plus the ability to stay up-to-date with current studies in the social sciences.

B. Lab Component: Yes (1 hour). A computer lab component is required for students to gain skills in accessing, processing, and presenting information. Students are required to use Microsoft Office (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint) to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. The computers must have Internet access with a Web Browser for access to the RVCC library databases and to the Internet for web-based searches.

C. Transferability of this course:

1. This course is designed to transfer as a technological competency general education course (the Gen Ed status of the course is currently *pending).*
2. This course is designed to transfer as a general education course with information literacy as the integrated goal (the Gen Ed status of the course is currently *pending).*

3. This course is designed to transfer as a program elective for courses in the social sciences.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. This course serves as a General Education course in Technological Competency, with the NJ CCC Integrated Goal of Information Literacy (the Gen Ed status of the course is currently pending)
C. This course meets a program requirement for the Social Sciences A.A. degree.
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

This course consists of the following themes:

A. Introduction to the Social Sciences
   1. Theoretical overview
   2. Inquiry in the social sciences
   3. Ethical issues in social inquiry

B. Identifying, localizing and evaluating information with the literature review
   1. Sources of information
   2. Technological tools to locate and report information
      i. Computer basics
      ii. Effective web searching
   3. Evaluation of information
   4. Using information ethically and legally

C. Collecting and Processing Information
   1. Hypotheses and practicalities of social inquiry
   2. Technological tools to collect and analyze information
      i. Databases for the social sciences
      ii. Excel

D. Presenting and Communicating Information
   1. Making an argument
      i. Principles
      ii. Social and psychological dimensions of communication
   2. Tools of communication
      i. Technology for written communication
         1. Microsoft Word
      ii. Technology for oral communication
         1. PowerPoint

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. **General Education Learning Outcomes**:

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

1. Use appropriate forms of technology to identify, collect, and process information in the social sciences (GE – NJ 4, 5, IL)
2. Use computer systems to present information on a social science topic of interest (GE – NJ 4)
3. Identify and address an information need for a topic in the social sciences (GE – NJ 5, IL)
4. Evaluate and think critically about information (GE – NJ IL) *
5. Design studies of inquiry for the social sciences (GE – NJ 5)*

[*: Embedded critical thinking]

B. **Course Learning Outcomes**:

Please see above

C. Assessment Instruments

1. Computer lab output (required for technological competency and information literacy)
2. Student oral presentations (required for technological competency and information literacy)
3. Research paper (required for technological competency and information literacy)
4. Lecture
5. Discussion
6. Group work
7. Essays
8. Journals

VII. Grade Determinants

A. In-class presentation (required for technological competency and information literacy)
B. Research paper (required for technological competency and information literacy)
C. Exams/term papers
D. Quizzes
E. Homework

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
E. laboratory
F. student oral presentations

VIII. Texts and Materials
Open Educational Resources

Textbook:. Lowry, C. (2016). *Choosing and using sources: A guide to academic research*. Ohio: Ohio State University Libraries.

Blackstone, A. (2011). *Principles of sociological inquiry*. Saylor foundation.

Other material: Articles, film, video

(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

1. Library Database
2. Computer lab with Microsoft Office (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint), internet, and statistical software (e.g., Minitab, SPSS, or Statlab).
3. Computers must have Internet access with a Web Browser for access to the RVCC library, the Internet for web based searches, literature reviews, and social science data.