

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Anna Farneski; [afarnesk@ramapo.edu](mailto:afarnesk@ramapo.edu)

June 3, 2011

**RAMAPO COLLEGE TO OFFER NEW MINOR IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
GENOCIDE BEGINNING FALL 2011**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Ramapo College of New Jersey will offer a new minor in Human Rights and Genocide studies beginning in Fall 2011, making it possible for students to prepare themselves for graduate school as well as career opportunities in international organizations, government, non-profits, multi-national corporations, and the media.

The result is an initiative spearheaded by School of American and International Studies members Dean Hassan Nejad, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Director Michael A. Riff, and Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies Rebecca Root. The program is a multi and interdisciplinary effort anchored in the belief that establishing legal frameworks and erecting viable international support systems represent the best hope that humankind has in preventing genocide, torture, religious persecution, and other assaults upon human dignity and rights.

Linkages to human rights and genocide prevention organizations and agencies located in the New York metropolitan area will be developed. Student-faculty research projects and participation in study abroad experiences will be encouraged. Co-curricular opportunities related to human rights will be provided by AIS colloquia, guest lectures, and film screenings, as well as by events organized by the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

The following courses that are part of the program will be offered in the Fall 2011 Semester:

CNTP 308, The Social Documentary and Human Rights Issues, with Professor of News/Documentary Production Marta Bautis

HIST 264, Jews in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe, with Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies Michael Riff

HIST 288, Women in Middle East Societies, with Assistant Professor of History Pinar Kayaalp

HIST 329, Paradigms of Genocide, with Director Riff

INTL 337, Human Rights in Latin America, with Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies Rebecca Root

LAWS 206, Comparative Perspectives on Human Rights, with Assistant Professor of Law and Society Mihaela Serban

LITR 366, Literature and the Holocaust, with Professor of Literature Peter Scheckner

PHIL 333, Ethics, with Associate Professor of Philosophy Lisa Cassidy

SOCI 202, Social Inequality, with Professor of Sociology Martha Ecker

SOCI 215, Sociology of Race Relations, with Associate Professor of Sociology Erin Augis

SOCI 250, International Migration and Human Rights, with Professor of Political Economy Behzad Yaghmaian

SOCI 302, Third World Women, with Associate Professor Augis

For more information about the Minor in Human Rights and Genocide Studies visit:

<http://ww2.ramapo.edu/ais/human-rights-minor.aspx>

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fourth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work, as well as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five graduate programs as well as articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.