MUSC 111 - MUSIC THEORY I

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: MUSC111: Music Theory I

B. New or Modified Course: modified

C. Date of Proposal or Revision: Semester: Fall Year: 2014

D. Sponsoring Department: Visual and Performing Arts

E. Semester Credit Hours: 3

F. Weekly Contact Hours: 3
   Lecture: 3
   Laboratory: 0

G. Prerequisites: Fundamentals of Music (MUSC101) or Department approval
   (interview with music faculty is mandatory before enrollment)
Note: Corequisite: Musicianship I (MUSC113)

H. Laboratory Fees: None

I. VAPA Chair: Dennis Russo, Co-Chair, Performing Arts
   (908) 526-1200 x8391, drusso@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Music (MUSC101) or Department approval (interview
with music faculty is mandatory before enrollment)
Corequisite: Musicianship I (MUSC113)
Music Theory I is designed primarily for music majors and requires concurrent
enrollment in Musicianship I (MUSC 113). Theory I, II, III, and IV must be taken in
sequence. Music Theory I contains a review of fundamentals: notation, scales, modes,
intervals, keys and tonality; study of basic melody and harmony; melodic organization,
cadences, non-harmonic tones; instruments and voices; species I counterpoint; 4-part
writing and harmonic progressions.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. This Theory I-IV and Musicianship I-IV are core requirements in all these degree
programs and are taken as corequisites and in sequence. They form the foundation
course is the first of four semesters of music theory study required in music major
curriculums. Music of a musician’s skills and literacy, and are, in addition to a student’s
performance audition, the placement testing focus for transferring music students to a four-year program.

B. Course transferability: Based on evaluations at the njtransfer.org website, Theory and Musicianship courses transfer as the equivalent theory program for Associate and Bachelor degrees in the Arts and Fine Arts.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free elective
B. This course serves as a program requirement for AA Liberal Arts Music Option and AFA Music.
C. To see course transferability for New Jersey colleges and universities, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; for other colleges and universities, go to the individual college website.

V. Course Content

A. properties of sound
B. fundamentals review: notation – pitch, rhythm, meter
C. scales, tonality, key, mode
D. intervals and transposition
E. triads and inversions
F. functional harmonic analysis, figured bass, 7th chords
G. cadences, non-harmonic tones
H. melodic organization and devices
I. texture types and harmonic reduction
J. species counterpoint
K. voice leading in 4 voices – introduction of chorale phrases

VI. General Education Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. General Educational Goals

The student will:
Demonstrate orally and in writing, the identification, analysis and integration of the elements of music and the characteristics of musical styles. (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)

B. Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:
1. analyze the aspects of melody, harmony, rhythm, form and other musical elements as applied to a wide variety of musical compositions.
2. apply techniques of analysis and perception of composition by writing musical exercises and compositional projects to show fluency in theoretical and notational aspects.

(* embedded critical thinking)
VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. lecture/discussion
B. individual work with the instructor
C. small-group work

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. written homework and composition assignments
B. quizzes and examinations

IX. Grade Determinants

A. Excellent attendance and timely and thorough completion of all assigned homework.
B. Participation in class discussions and group work, question/answer sessions, and homework shared on the board.
C. Mid-term and final examinations, possible quizzes and creative, compositional projects.

X. Text and Materials

A. Text: (such as) Musician’s Guide to Theory & Analysis, Clendinning & Marvin, W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., 2005

(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.)

B. Materials: manuscript paper, pencil

XI. Resources

A. Soundproof classroom equipped with piano
B. Stereo and media systems
C. Electronic keyboard studio utilized for homework and related keyboard assignments