I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: MUSC 155, 156, 255, 256: Orchestra I, II, III, IV

B. New or Modified Course: new

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

D. Sponsoring Department: Visual and Performing Arts

E. Semester Credit Hours: 1

F. Weekly Contact Hours: 1 Lecture: 0 Laboratory: 3

G. Prerequisite: Approval required for MUSC 155 (Orchestra I) only, by interview with Music Department faculty before enrollment; as each completed course becomes the prerequisite for the next in the Orchestra sequence. Audition for the Orchestra may also be required.

H. Laboratory Fees: none

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

II. Catalog Descriptions

Prerequisite: Approval required for MUSC 155: Orchestra I only, by interview with Music Department faculty before enrollment; as each completed course becomes the prerequisite for the next in the Orchestra sequence. Audition for the Orchestra may also be required. This large ensemble course provides opportunity for the study and performance of standard orchestral repertory in a wide variety of styles. Weekly rehearsals and one or more public performances are required. In lieu of such an organization sponsored by RVCC, students may play in an approved concert band off campus.

III. Statement of Course Need
A. All collegiate music programs require participation by music students in large ensembles, such as choirs, bands, and orchestras, during each semester of their enrollment. These organizations are made up of both music majors and non-majors, and often, talented musicians from the community. At the present time, RVCC does not have its own orchestra. Students who play orchestral instruments and wish to have orchestra as their ensemble credit should enquire about performing orchestras in the community. The Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra has an affiliation with RVCC and rehearses on campus, as well as presenting two yearly concerts at the RVCC Theatre. Other approved orchestras, such as the Hunterdon Symphony and the Plainfield Symphony, rehearse and perform off-campus in the community.

B. Course transferability: Based on evaluations at the njtransfer.org website, orchestra participation transfers to most Associate and Bachelor music programs as a performance ensemble requirement.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. This course serves as a performance ensemble requirement for AFA Music and AA Liberal Arts Music Option.
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. Outline of Course Contents

Courses will consist of professional repertory from the standard orchestral literature. Each semester’s repertory will depend on the programming of the Director. All participating students from each of the four semesters will rehearse according to the orchestra’s scheduling and Director’s requirements and perform in the orchestra’s public concerts.

VI. General Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. General Educational Goals

Students will:
Demonstrate musical, ensemble and instrumental skills and exemplify aesthetic, creative and cultural awareness through the study and performance of the art and techniques of orchestral literature. (GE- NJ 6, *)

B. Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:
1. prepare their instrumental parts for participation with the ensemble’s repertory.
2. interpret and realize musical and ensemble directives from the conductor.
3. perform in public as an integrated, professional member of the ensemble.

(* embedded critical thinking)

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. ensemble rehearsals
B. instrumental coaching
C. independent study
D. peer collaborations
E. performances

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. weekly rehearsals
B. public performances
C. evaluation by ensemble’s Director

IX. Grade Determinants

A. weekly preparation and attendance
B. progress with technical and musical demands
C. success of performance responsibilities and ensemble requirements
D. consultation with the Director concerning the student’s success

X. Texts and Materials

Appropriate professional orchestral repertory will be chosen by the ensemble’s Director.

XI. Resources

A. Appropriate music scores and parts.
B. Appropriate rehearsal studio with music stands.