

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

MUSC 101 - FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSIC

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: MUSC 101: Fundamentals of Music

B. New or Modified Course: modified

C. Date of Proposal or Revision: Semester: Fall Year: 2019

D. Effective Term: Fall 2020

E. Sponsoring Department: Arts & Design

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites: none

I. Laboratory Fees: yes

J. Arts & Design Co-chairs: John Sichel, john.sichel@raritanval.edu
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 Dean: Division of Liberal Arts and Fine Arts, Business and Public Service:
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II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites: None. This course is designed for non-major students with little or no prior understanding of music fundamentals, who wish to learn to read, write and comprehend music notation. Topics include pitch and rhythmic notation, scales, intervals, key and meter signatures, music symbols, basic aspects of melodic and harmonic construction, examination of the elements of music, and an introduction to ear training, sight-singing and the piano keyboard.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. This course is a standard offering in virtually all the two- and four-year colleges and universities. The course has a wide appeal to students of all ages who wish to learn to read, write and comprehend music in order to study an

instrument or voice, and/or pursue participation or further creative studies in various musical genres.

B. Course transferability: Based on evaluations of this course at the njtransfer.org website, Fundamentals of Music transfers to most colleges as an Arts elective or as a Free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free elective
- B. This course serves as a studio arts elective for AA Liberal Arts Majors
- C. This course serves as a Studio Arts elective for AAS Early Childhood Education.
- 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 Content

- A. Pitch Notation:
 1. Note names, clefs, grand staff
 2. Scales: major and minor (diatonic), key signatures, accidentals, tonality
 3. Intervals, transposition, consonance and dissonance, chromaticism
 4. Harmony – triads and 7th chords
- B. Rhythmic Notation:
 1. Note values, meter and meter signatures (simple and compound)
 2. Tempo, “cut” time, beat subdivision
 3. Dotted rhythms, ties, beams, triplets
 4. Counting methods, conducting patterns
 5. Syncopation
- C. Other Musical Elements:
 1. Melody and harmonization
 2. Accompaniments and textures
 3. Dynamics and timbre
 4. Basic elements of form and musical construction

VI. General Educational and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

demonstrate orally and in writing applied knowledge of the fundamentals of musical notation, musical elements and structure, incorporating basic notational, aural and keyboard skills. (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Identify, write and apply pitch and rhythmic notation.
2. Translate other symbols in musical scores concerning tempo, dynamics, texture, instrumentation and form.
3. Analyze and differentiate the elements of music.
4. Employ reading and practice skills to develop musical abilities, creative sensibilities and aural comprehension.
5. Demonstrate introductory levels of sight singing and keyboard playing.

C. Assessment Instruments:

1. Written examinations – musical terms, notation, analysis
2. Aural examinations
3. Performance demonstrations – rhythm, singing, keyboard
4. Written critiques/observations of musical performance

(* embedded critical thinking)

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Exams, drills, quizzes
- B. Performance progress
- C. Completion of all written assignments
- D. Attendance/Participation

Formats, modes and methods that may be used for teaching and learning:

- A. Lecture/discussion
- B. Guided practice of applied drills and musical examples
- C. Small-group work
- D. Computer technologies/software for musical skill exercises

VIII. Texts and Materials

Text: (such as)

Tom Manoff, The Music Kit, latest edition, W.W. Norton & Co., New York, 1984 (supplies text/workbook, rhythm reader and CD with musical examples and rhythm drills)

(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

- A. Soundproof music classroom/studio with piano
- B. Classroom stereo and media systems
- C. Electronic keyboard studio
- D. Computers/Music software programs – musical drills and exercises
- E. Library of music, CDs, videos