Raritan Valley Community College  
Academic Course Outline  

**MUSC 105 - Survey of Jazz Music**  

I. Basic Course Information  

A. Course Number and Title: MUSC 105: Survey of Jazz Music  

B. New or Modified Course: modified  

C. Date of Revision or Proposal: 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: none  

H. Laboratory Fees: none  

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

II. Catalog Description  

This course is a survey of Jazz music which gives an overview of its development and repertory. Students will gain an understanding of Jazz as an art form, from its roots in Dixieland to Swing, Bebop, Cool Jazz, Hard Bop, Fusion and current trends. Major innovators and cultural contexts will also be explored. Students will be required to attend and critique off-campus Jazz performances.  

III. Statement of Course Need  

A. This course addresses the need for students to gain an insight and understanding into the history and development of Jazz, considered to be America’s “Classical” music and possibly the greatest artistic innovation to come out of the American experience. This course will serve as an appreciation course to broaden the students’ exposure to a diversity of musical styles.
B. Course Transferability: Based on the evaluations of this course at www.njtransfer.org, Survey of Jazz Music transfers to most colleges as a General Education course in the Arts and Humanities, 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 General Education course in the Humanities and Appreciation of the Arts.
C. This course is a recommended course in the AA Liberal Arts Music Option and Can serve as a VAPA elective for AFA Music and AAS Early Childhood Education.
D. 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. Introduction: A discussion of Jazz, African and European roots, Elements of Music, Characteristics of Swing, The Jazz Rhythm section, Jazz improvisation
D. Early Big Band Swing: The New York bands of Fletcher Henderson and Duke Ellington, The Kansas City sound of Bennie Molten and Count Basie
E. The Swing Era: The end of the Depression, Jazz as popular dance music, the development of the big bands of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Glen Miller and Tommy Dorsey.
F. Bebop Jazz: The evolution of bebop and its major innovators, Charlie Christian, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Thelonious Monk
H. Hard Bop: Drummer Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Horace Silver, Sonny Rollins, Cannonball Adderley, Wes Montgomery and Charles Mingus
I. The Jazz Singers: Development of jazz style singing, Louis Armstrong,
Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan
J. Contemporary Jazz: Modal and Rock influences, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock, The introduction of impressionism, Gil Evans, Bill Evans
K. The Free Jazz Movement: new forms of expression, Ornette Coleman, Cecil Taylor, Sun Ra, Art Ensemble of Chicago
M. Current Trends: Neo-traditionalism, Wynton Marsalis, and influences of Jazz in classical, popular and world music, new sounds of John Zorn, Bill Frisell, Joe Lovano, Michael Brecker, Greg Osby, John Scofield; the effect and influences of Technology on Jazz

VI. General Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. General Educational Goals:

Students will:
1. Demonstrate both orally and in writing an appreciation of the history and development of Jazz music and the identification of the major eras, cultural contexts, styles, contributors and innovators in Jazz. (GE-NJ 1, 6, 7, *)
2. Use general and/or discipline-specific information sources to better identify, determine and apply research or information need. (GE-NJ IL)

B. Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:
1. differentiate between varied jazz music styles and eras.
2. identify the major compositions (recorded in various styles and eras) and major innovators in the development of jazz music.
3. analyze musical form as related to various jazz styles.
4. recognize the musical instruments used in the performance of jazz music.
5. summarize the concepts of improvisation as applied to jazz music.

(* embedded critical thinking)

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. Lecture/Demonstration
B. Group work/Discussion
C. Student oral presentations and research projects

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. Homework: reading and listening assignments, analysis
B. Midterm and final examinations
C. Oral presentations
D. Research projects (required)
E. Written critiques of live performance

IX. Grade Determinants

A. Weekly assignments
B. Research topics and oral presentations
C. Midterm and final exams
D. Written critique of a live jazz performance
E. Attendance/Participation

X. Texts and Materials

Text: such as: Jazz History Overview, Vernick & Haydon, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company
or: Jazz Styles History and Analysis, Mark C. Gridley, Prentice Hall
(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.)

Materials:
A. Audio and video sources
B. Newspaper and magazine reviews
C. Interviews

XI. Resources
A. Soundproof classroom with piano
B. Stereo and media systems