RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

MUSC 121 - KEYBOARD SKILLS I

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: MUSC121: Keyboard Skills 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: 2

F. Weekly Contact Hours: 3
   Lecture: 1
   Laboratory: 2

G. Prerequisites: none

H. Laboratory Fees: yes

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

II. Catalog Description

This course will develop the basic skills of keyboard playing, music reading, and keyboard techniques such as scales, chords, hand position and fingering. Beginning exercises and introductory piano literature will be assigned. The course is designed for the student with little or no prior keyboard experience.

III. Statement of Course Need:

A. Keyboard Skills courses are an essential part of the music curriculum, for students pursuing either the musical arts or music education. This course permits students to gain the basic keyboard skills required for further serious music study. The course is designed for the music student with a limited background in keyboard playing or those whose musical performance area is not the keyboard. It is the first course in a four semester sequence of keyboard skills, required for music majors as an adjunct to their studies in music theory, musicianship, MIDI and/or composition. The course is also appropriate for those interested in Early Childhood Education and in Music Therapy.
Keyboard Skills courses are standard offerings in community colleges and four-year institutions as they are also often desired by many community individuals for personal development and musical enrichment.

B. This class is taught in A-23, our electronic keyboard lab, and is essentially the application of musical skills, knowledge, creativity and performance at the keyboard. C. Course transferability: Based on evaluations by the njtransfer.org website, this course transfers to most colleges as an Arts elective or a Free elective or as a keyboard proficiency course for music majors.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. The course meets a program 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 Content:

A. Music fundamentals:
   - terms and elements of music
   - symbols for pitch, rhythm, meter, dynamics
   - ear training concepts and drills
B. Hand position, posture, practice habits
C. Beginning technical and coordinative exercises
D. 5-finger position in major and minor keys
E. Transposition in 5-finger position
F. Ensemble playing
G. Solo and ensemble repertory as assigned

VI. General Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. General Educational Goals

The student will:
develop the skills of keyboard playing, enabling further pursuit and engagement in creative expression, personal development, and the aesthetic and technical elements of music. (GE-NJ 1, 6, *)

B. Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:
1. identify and apply musical terms and notational symbols.
2. develop reading and coordinative skills with beginning repertory and exercises.
3. transpose musical material in 5-finger position.
4. use the keyboard as a basic tool for the study of music theory, composition, arranging, and digital applications.
5. play and perform solo and ensemble pieces.

(* embedded critical thinking)

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. Lecture/demonstrations
B. Group instruction and discussions.
C. Ensemble playing
D. Individual instruction

VIII. Papers, Examination, and other Assessment Instruments

A. Written examinations – midterm and final – theory and notation
B. Chapter reviews of written theory, musical terms and concepts
C. Weekly progress on assigned materials
D. Performance examinations – assigned materials

IX. Grade Determinants

A. Examinations: written and performance
B. Weekly progress and individual effort
C. Attendance/classroom participation

X. Texts and Materials

Text: (such as) Caroline A. Lindemann: Piano Lab: An Introduction to Class Piano, latest edition (Wadsworth Pub. Co.; Belmont, CA)

(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:
Supplementary materials and/or repertory may be supplied by the instructor.

XI. Resources

A. Soundproof music studio/classroom with acoustic piano.
B. Electronic keyboards: Individual student keyboard stations (12) plus the instructor’s demonstration keyboard.
C. Stereo and media systems