Raritan Valley Community College  
Academic Course Outline  

**MUSC 125 - Guitar Class I**

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: MUSC 125: Guitar Class I

B. New or Modified Course: modified

C. Date of Proposal: 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: none

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

II. Catalog Description

Guitar Class I teaches the basic skills of guitar playing including music theory, technique exercises, chord forms and rhythms. Level 1 reading etudes and songs will be assigned for classroom performance. This class is designed for students with little or no previous guitar background. Music majors whose primary instrument is guitar should enroll in Applied Music/private lessons. Students must provide their own guitars (acoustic or electric with amplifiers).

III. Statement of Course Need

A. Guitar Class I would enable students to proceed with the skills needed for the serious study of the guitar. Guitar class courses are useful for music majors, for classroom use by education and early childhood majors and in the health area for uses in Music Therapy and rehabilitation. This class is also of interest to people in the community, offering a multi dimensional approach (encompassing technique, theory, reading and performance) to learning music and the guitar.
B. Course Transferability: Based on evaluations by the njtransfer.org website, this course Transfers to most Associate and Bachelor programs as an Arts elective or Free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective
B. The course serves as a VAPA elective for 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. Outline of Course Content

A. Music reading, notes of the fingerboard, development of reading in the first position. The basics of music notation including key signatures.
B. Techniques for left and right hand development; tremolo picking, finger stretches, rhythm values, right hand strumming patterns.
C. Common and extended chords of the open and first position including triads and seventh chords, 2 sets of commonly used barre chords.
D. Music theory: the spelling and playing applications of scale formulas, triads and seventh chords.
E. In class performance of traditional and contemporary songs.

VI. General Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. General Educational Goals

The student will:
engage in beginning exercises and music to enable development of the physical, musical, notational, historical and aesthetic parameters of the guitar.
(GE-NJ 1, 6, *)

B. Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:
1. apply the fundamentals of guitar technique to the electric or acoustic guitar.
2. apply appropriate concepts of music notation and theory.
3. perform selected technical exercises, studies and repertory for appropriate physical and musical development.
4. chart the parameters of musical form as applied to appropriate repertory.
5. interpret traditional and popular songs in diverse styles with appropriate accompaniment rhythms and textures.

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

A. Lecture/Demonstration
B. Group work/Discussion
C. Individual coaching
D. Classroom performance
E. Student oral presentations

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. Performance of applied guitar assignments
B. Application of music theory and reading skills
C. Oral presentations
D. Research projects

IX. Grade Determinants

The Final grade will be an assessment of the student’s progress on weekly assignments, class projects/presentations, midterm and final exams, and class participation and attendance.

X. Texts and Materials

Text: (such as): The Hal Leonard Guitar Method Book (latest edition) by Will Schmid and Greg Koch, Hal Leonard Publishing

Additional music for classroom performance will be provided by the instructor.

(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.)

XI. Resources

A. Acoustically appropriate soundproof studio/classroom
B. Stereo and media systems (recording capability favorable)
C. Music stands, electrical outlets for electric guitars with amplifiers