Raritan Valley Community College
Academic Course Outline

**MUSC 157, 158, 257, 258**  
**RVCC Jazz Ensemble I, II, III, IV**

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: MUSC-157, 158, 257, 258  
RVCC Jazz Ensemble I, II, III, IV

B. New or Modified Course: modified

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

D. Sponsoring Department: Visual & Performing Arts

E. Semester Credit Hours: 1

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

G. Prerequisites/Corequisites: Audition/approval required for RVCC Jazz Ensemble I only, as each completed course becomes the prerequisite for the next in the Jazz Ensemble sequence. Enrollment may be limited by the needs of the ensemble.

H. Laboratory Fees: None

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

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: Audition/approval required for RVCC Jazz Ensemble I only, as each completed course becomes the prerequisite for the next in the Jazz Ensemble sequence. Enrollment may be limited by the needs of the ensemble. This performance ensemble class pursues the study and performance of jazz repertoire in an ensemble format, through the exploration and development of interpretation and improvisation of jazz compositions and arrangements in various jazz styles. Public performances on or off-campus are required. Auditions are open to qualified students and community participants.

III. Statement of Course Need
A. This course is a standard offering of community colleges, four-year colleges and universities. These courses contribute a stimulating ensemble to the cultural life of the community, as well as fulfill the ensemble performance credits required by music majors in jazz studies. This course offers participants the opportunity to develop musical, improvisational and performance skills.

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

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free elective
B. This course serves as a performing ensemble requirement for AFA Music and AA Liberal Arts Music Option, as well as a rewarding musical venue for community participants.
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

Classes will consist of the analysis and rehearsal of selected jazz compositions and/or arrangements for the full ensemble or for smaller jazz combinations.

A. Selected compositions will be analyzed in melody, harmony, form and instrumentation.
B. Texture, balance and precision of the arrangements will be rehearsed and polished.
C. Students will develop their abilities to solo and improvise in various jazz styles.

VI. General Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. General Educational Goals

Students will:
Demonstrate musical, ensemble, instrumental and/or and vocal skills and exemplify aesthetic, creative and cultural awareness through the study and performance of the art and techniques of multi-dimensional jazz formats and literature. (GE- NJ 6, *)

B. Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:
1. Interpret and perform selected jazz repertory in various styles and ensemble combinations.
2. Analyze and incorporate musical and ensemble directives from the conductor.
3. Develop their ability to improvise stylistically in the jazz medium.

(* embedded critical thinking)

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. Lecture/discussion
B. Ensemble and section rehearsals
C. Guest speakers/artists

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. Attendance, effort and attitude will be noted.
B. Weekly progress and preparation
C. Public concert performance(s)

IX. Grade Determinants

A. Weekly participation, reflecting personal time spent on preparation of assigned material.
B. Performance precision and style.
C. Progress in solo and ensemble sensitivity.
D. Professional attitude and effort, reflecting the responsibility to and respect for all colleagues in the ensemble.

X. Texts and Materials

Musical arrangements
(Performance materials will be provided by the Department and/or the Director)

XI. Resources

Rehearsal studio with piano and appointments
Music stands
Stereo, media and recording equipment
Drum kit and percussion set
Amplifiers for electric instruments
Special Room Requirements: Welpe Theatre with grand piano, drum kit, amplifiers, stands, mics, etc. for performance