ENSEMBLE COLLABORATIONS I – IV

I. Basic Course Information
   A. Course Number and Title: **MUSC 159, 160, 259, 260**  
      Ensemble Collaborations I - IV

   B. Date of Proposal or Revision: Spring 2004

   C. Sponsoring Department: VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

   D. Semester Credit Hours: 1

   E. Weekly Contact Hours: Laboratory: 3

   F. Course Prerequisites: AUDITION  
      Placement test/audition/interview required by instructor. Enrollment may be limited due to ensemble and/or instrumentation requirements.

   G. Laboratory Fees: NONE

II. Catalog Description

   Students must have an interview/audition with the instructor. Enrollment may be limited due to instrumentation requirements of the ensembles. Students will engage in the rehearsal, coaching, and study of music ensembles for small groups, which may involve instrumentalists and vocalists. Repertoire will be selected to accommodate the skills and instruments of those enrolled. Classes will include the study of musical styles and ensemble performance, a researched overview of ensemble repertoire for each instrument, and written critiques. Participation will include recital performance.

III. Statement of Course Need

   Ensemble courses are standard offerings of community college, four-year college, and university music curricula. The challenges and preparations inherent in this intimate ensemble playing are critical to a developing musician’s training, depth of musical understanding, perspective and versatility. The course will function as an ensemble option for the music major and as an elective for the qualified general student or community musician. Selected ensembles will be featured on Department student recitals and on other concert offerings on campus or in the community. The course combines traditional elements of performance, ensemble, repertoire, and style courses.
IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free elective
B. This course meets an ensemble program requirement for the Associate of Arts (Music Option) degree.
C. Course transferability: In most four-year institutions, students who play in a smaller ensemble such as this or a jazz ensemble may also be required to participate in a large ensemble (choir, band, or orchestra) to meet the traditional requirement. However, upon evaluation by participating colleges at the njtransfer.org website, this course is accepted as a studio or performing arts elective in the Arts and Humanities and by most as an ensemble requirement in a music degree program.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Ensemble repertoire may be chosen from potentially any musical style. We will research the possibilities for the instruments and voices that we have.
B. Music for our selected projects will be studied, arranged, coached, and presented in class.
C. Musical style, interpretation, and ensemble challenges will be thoroughly discussed and exercised.
D. Students will write reports and critiques, evaluating and comparing style elements, practice techniques, and performances.
E. Selected ensembles may be presented in concert.

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

Students will rehearse and perform together on their primary instruments, applying their skills and musical sensibilities to the precision, balance and stylistic requirements of ensembles of different genres and orchestrations. (G.E. 1 & 2)

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:
A. perform with ensemble precision and sensitivity.
B. research the ensemble repertoire for their instruments.
C. practice their repertoire with focused intent and understanding concerning stylistic elements and technical challenges.
D. critique others’ performances.
E. apply creatively their theory knowledge in transcribing and arranging.
F. demonstrate verbally and in writing their evaluations and opinions concerning musical elements, style, practice, and performance.
G. perform their projects demonstrating progress from coachings and rehearsals.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning
• individual instruction and preparation
• ensemble and sectional rehearsal
• lecture/demonstration
• performance discussion and verbal critiques
• creative sessions in arranging, transcribing and interpretation
• student presentations of researched material and written critiques

VIII. Papers, Examinations and other Assessment Instruments

• students will be assessed on weekly preparation and progress with selected repertoire and arrangement assignments.
• in-class performances will be scheduled and critiqued by the instructor and by the student peers.
• written concert critiques and researched topics
• in-class and recital performances

IX. Grade Determinants

The grade will be determined by weekly attendance, attentiveness and the ability to process and apply criticism and direction resulting from rehearsals. Improvements should be shown from week to week, reflecting personal time spent on selected arrangements. It will be mandatory to complete all arrangement assignments, written critiques and research projects.

The student will be able to:
A. demonstrate their progress in technical and musical skills (L.O. A, C, G)
B. critically analyze ensemble elements in musical repertoire (L.O. C, D, F)
C. identify ensemble repertoire and styles for their instrument (L.O. B, F)
D. apply technical, theoretical and stylistic knowledge in arranging. (L.O. C, E, F)
E. perform with greater skill and confidence in ensemble genres and styles (L.O. G)
F. critically analyze (written or verbally) ensemble performance precision and sensitivity (L.O. C, D, F)

X. Texts and Materials

The course has no required textbook.
Performance materials will be provided by the Department and/or the Instructor. In addition, students and the instructor will acquire and/or arrange music for various instrumentations as needed. Library resources will be used for appropriate scores and for research topics re: instruments, repertoire and criticism.

XI. Resources

• Soundproof instrumental/vocal music rehearsal studio with piano
• Music stands
• Music program’s drum kit, keyboards, percussion equipment and other musical instruments
• Amplifiers for electric instruments and microphones
• Stereo system with tape, CD, VCR/DVD components
  (recording capabilities also highly preferred)
• Public performance space with adequate audience seating