

# NEW RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DUBLIN, VIRGINIA

## COURSE PLAN

Course Number and Title: MUS 121 Music in Society

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(Instructor)

Spring 2025  
(Date)

Approved by: *S. Talbert-Hungo*  
(Dean)

Spring 2025  
(Date)

### I. Course Description

MUS 121 – Music in Society (3 credits). Explores the language of music through an introduction to basic elements, forms and styles across time. Acquaints students with composers' lives and influential creative individualities, discovering representative works and milestones in western society. Develops techniques for listening analytically and critically. Reviews historical development and significance of art music within the context of evolving societal structures.

### II. Course Purpose

Understand and recognize the role of art music within the context of society throughout Western history. Enhance knowledge of significant musicians and musical works. Identify various components within a composition or performance that influence the overall listening experience.

### III. Introduction

Music exists as a lens to understand more fully the human condition and society throughout history. As a universal continuing paradox and developing art form, music provides invaluable insight into social conditions and changing societal structures. This evolution elucidates the incessant need across time and space for composers and interpreters to explore the potential that exists within the world of sound, inspiring them to create new soundscapes, invent new forms, defy standards, instill sensations, and ignite emotions. Their music uplifts, soothes, incites, provokes, unites, and heals. Music represents not only the civilizations that have been, are and shall be, but becomes the soundtrack within which we inherently self-identify. Subject to ever-conflicting social and physical environments, personal disposition, and moment, those exploring this living art interpret and react in a plethora of ways creating this paradoxical “universal” language. As an ever-evolving form of communication and sensation, music provides a window to connect with the past, understand the present, and most

importantly, unveils in a true and direct manner the innermost nature of the human experience.

#### **IV. General Education Student Learning Outcomes Included in Course**

General education at NRCC provides the educational foundation necessary to promote intellectual and personal development. Upon completing the associate degree, graduates will demonstrate competency in student learning outcomes in 1) civic engagement, 2) critical thinking, 3) professional readiness, 4) quantitative literacy, 5) scientific literacy, and 6) written communication.

This course includes the following general education student learning outcomes:

- Identify the problem or complex issue and its various parts.
- Identify central issues and assumptions of a problem or issue.
- Seek and evaluate the information needed to fully understand the problem or complex issue.
- Identify complexities of an issue, relevant perspectives and/or important relations when taking a position on a complex issue or problem.
- Analyze various perspectives of a problem or complex issue in order to reach a well-reasoned conclusion or solution.
- Communicate a controlling idea in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion.
- Demonstrate appropriate workplace and classroom demeanor and behavior e.g., attendance (for online classes this means regular engagement), submissions of assignments by set deadlines and appropriate dress.
- Effectively communicate orally.
- Interact with honesty and integrity.

#### **V. Course Objectives**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Communication

- Effectively communicate music observations through written and/or oral communication

Critical Thinking

- Identify and explain how various elements of a composition (melody, harmony, rhythm, pitch, timbre and texture) contribute to personal perception
- Evaluate a music performance (live, audio, or video) by analyzing various components/evidence that influenced viewpoint

Cultural and Social Understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge of the role of music in society
- Recognize/describe how music influences individuals and/or society

- Recognize/describe how individual and societal factors influence music creation Personal Development
- Augment listening skills through assignments/assessments designed to listen analytically and critically to music
- Demonstrate the development of receptivity to music from different historical periods
- Cultivate personal goals related to music listening, participation, or performance attendance

## **VI. Instructional Methods**

Knowledge obtained will come primarily from the lecture material and/or chosen text. Instructors will incorporate the use of online media, such as Alexander Street, YouTube, or TED Talks.

## **VII. Course Content**

Students successfully completing this course will have, at a minimum, a functional knowledge of the following:

### Elements of Music

- Demonstrate a knowledge of the basic elements of music, e.g., unity and variety, pitch, dynamics, timbre, duration and texture

### Building Blocks of Sound

- Identify types of notes and note names on a score
- Identify notes on a keyboard
- Identify instruments from the basic instrument groups (strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, keyboard) as well as vocal timbres

### Structures of Music

- Demonstrate understanding of basic forms and structures of music, e.g., binary and ternary forms, sonata form, theme and variations
- Recognize the form of a given piece of music

### Historical Periods and Composers

- Demonstrate knowledge of distinguishing aspects of music history periods
- Identify various composers and their works
- Recognize historical-social context of each music history period

## **VIII. Evaluation**

Evaluations based on the instructor's class policies.

## **IX. Withdrawal Policy**

### **Student Initiated Withdrawal Policy**

A student may drop or withdraw from a class without academic penalty during the first 60 percent of a session. For purposes of enrollment reporting, the following procedures apply:

- If a student withdraws from a class prior to the termination of the add/drop period for the session, the student will be removed from the class roll and no grade will be awarded.
- After the add/drop period, but prior to completion of 60 percent of a session, a student who withdraws from a class will be assigned a grade of “W.” A grade of “W” implies that the student was making satisfactory progress in the class at the time of withdrawal, that the withdrawal was officially made before the deadline published in the college calendar, or that the student was administratively transferred to a different program.
- After that time, if a student withdraws from a class, a grade of “F” or “U” will be assigned. Exceptions to this policy may be made under documented mitigating circumstances if the student was passing the course at the last date of attendance.

A retroactive grade of “W” may be awarded only if the student would have been eligible under the previously stated policy to receive a “W” on the last date of class attendance. The last date of attendance for an online course will be the last date that work was submitted.

Students requesting a late withdrawal due to documented mitigating circumstances should contact the Coordinator of Admissions and Records.

### **Instructor Initiated Withdrawal**

A student who adds a class or registers after the first day of class is counted absent from all class meetings missed. Each instructor is responsible for keeping a record of student attendance (face-to-face classes) or performance/participation (online classes) in each class throughout the semester.

When a student’s absences equal twice the number of weekly meetings of a class (equivalent amount of time for summer session), the student may be dropped for unsatisfactory attendance in the class by the instructor.

Since attendance is not a valid measurement for online, a student may be withdrawn due to non-performance. A student should refer to his/her online course plan for the instructor’s policy.

When an instructor withdraws a student for unsatisfactory attendance (face-to-face class) or non-performance (online), the last date of attendance/participation

will be documented. A grade of “W” will be recorded during the first sixty percent (60%) period of a course. A student withdrawn after the sixty percent (60%) period will receive a grade of “F” or “U” except under documented mitigating circumstances when a letter of appeal has been submitted by the student. A copy of this documentation must be placed in the student’s academic file.

The student will be notified of the withdrawal by the Admissions and Records Office. An appeal of reinstatement into the class may be approved only by the instructor and dean.

### **No-Show Policy**

A student must either attend face-to-face courses or demonstrate participation in online courses by the last date to drop for a refund. A student who does not meet this deadline will be reported to the Admissions and Records Office and will be withdrawn as a no-show student. No refund will be applicable, and the student will not be allowed to attend/participate in the class or submit assignments. Failure to attend or participate in a course will adversely impact a student’s financial aid award.

### **X. Cheating/Plagiarism Policy**

A grade of “F” will be awarded for the semester to any student caught cheating. This includes plagiarism, which is defined as “To present another’s words or ideas as one’s own or without attribution” (American Heritage Dictionary, 2019). Remember that plagiarism includes using words or ideas from Internet sites, as well as copying from print sources.

### **XI. Diversity Statement**

The New River Community College community values the pluralistic nature of our society. We recognize diversity including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, social class, age, gender, sexual orientation and physical or mental capability. We respect the variety of ideas, experiences and practices that such diversity entails. It is our commitment to ensure equal opportunity and to sustain a climate of civility for all who work or study at NRCC, or who otherwise participate in the life of the college.

### **XII. Non-discrimination Statement**

New River Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations, 217 Edwards Hall, 540-674-3600, ext. 4241

### **XIII. Disability Statement**

If you are a student with a disability and in need of accommodations for this course, please contact the Center for Disability Services (CDS) for assistance. CDS is located within the Advising Center in Rooker Hall. For more information about disabilities services, see [Center for Disability Services Policies and Procedures](#).

### **Required Safety Training**

Virginia law, effective August 1, 2024, requires campus safety and emergency preparedness training for all students enrolled in on-campus classes at public colleges and universities. The training must focus on an active shooter event and be completed by the last day of their first term in college.

To comply with this legislation, students will view a college-provided awareness and training video during the first two weeks of class for this course.

New River Community College  
**General Health Guidelines and Student Expectations**  
Spring 2025

In guarding against the transmission of infectious illnesses, it is imperative that we follow specific health-related best practices.

As a condition for attending class or otherwise using NRCC facilities, I, as a student, agree to the following conditions:

1. I will follow all CDC, state, and local guidelines pertaining to diseases and health conditions. More information can be found at the links below.
  - a CDC Diseases and Conditions: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/diseases-and-conditions.htm>
  - b Virginia Department of Health: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>
  - c New River Health District: <https://www.nrvroadtowellness.com/>
2. In the event of health threats or changes in guidelines, I understand in-person classes may be moved online, fully or partially, and I will need to be prepared to access technology and the internet with as little as 24 hours' notice.

By continuing my enrollment in class(es), **I agree to meet each of the expectations outlined above.**

New River Community College encourages all students to fully vaccinate against transmissible illnesses. Information about vaccinations can be found on the Virginia Department of Health website at [www.vdh.virginia.gov](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov).