MUSIC (MUSC)

MUSC 101 - Understanding Music (3 Hours)
This course examines how music works. Students will learn the central concepts of Western music theory (rhythm, meter, pitch, notation, harmony, and harmonic function), and how those concepts apply to writing music. Emphasis will be placed on developing basic musical literacy and a vocabulary for understanding musical language. No previous musical experience is required.
Curriculum: AE,HU

MUSC 150 - Defining and Defending Music (3 Hours)
In this course, students examine the ways in which musical creativity has been promoted, protected, and controlled in the United States. Topics of study include censorship, copyright battles, music and marketing, musical communities, and music and politics. Open to all students, no previous musical experience is necessary.
Curriculum: CL,HU

MUSC 201 - Class Voice (1 Hour)
This course will begin the process of understanding the physiological, psychological, and expressive aspects of vocal production. Students will explore the foundations of good singing: breathing, phonation, resonance, articulation, and to learn the fundamentals of diction. This course is appropriate for beginning-level students who are interested in studying applied voice.
Prerequisite(s): permission of the music faculty

MUSC 202 - Class Piano (1 Hour)
This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of piano performance. Students will learn the foundations of good keyboard technique, music notation, chord progressions, scales, and beginning repertoire. This course will give students an opportunity to explore the principles of musical expression through group and individual performance. This course is appropriate for beginning-level students who are interested in studying applied piano.

MUSC 203 - Brass Methods (1 Hour)
Introduction to playing and teaching brass instruments. The course is designed for Music Majors pursuing the Instrumental Pedagogy Emphasis. Perquisite: Permission Required.

MUSC 204 - Singing on Stage - Musical Scenes Class (1 Hour)
In this course students will learn beginning fundamentals and concepts of scene work involving music. Through assigned musical theater and/or opera scenes, students will explore character, blocking, vocal color, and harmonization. Both classical and contemporary singing will be explored. Through a combination of lecture, group warm-ups, group rehearsal, scene rehearsal, and acting coaching, students will prepare class ensemble pieces and duet, trio, or quartet scenes for a final presentation at the end of the semester. Prior vocal experience recommended.

MUSC 205 - Woodwind Methods (1 Hour)
Introduction to playing and teaching woodwind instruments. The course is designed for Music Majors pursuing the Instrumental Pedagogy Emphasis.

MUSC 207 - Class Guitar (1 Hour)
This course is an introduction to the fundamentals of guitar performance. Students will learn the foundations of good guitar technique, music notation, chord progressions, scales, and beginning repertoire. This course will give students an opportunity to explore the principles of musical expression through group and individual performance. This course is appropriate for students who are interested in studying applied guitar. Students must have their own instrument and/or amplification.

MUSC 208 - Fundamentals of Conducting (3 Hours)
How does a conductor lead an orchestra, or a band, or a choir, despite never making a sound? This course opens the door to the technique and craft of conducting, introducing students to the basic beat patterns, score reading, and rehearsal techniques associated with leading both instrumental and choral ensembles. This course is open to all RMC students, but previous musical experience and/or the ability to read music notation is required.
Prerequisite(s): One of: MUSC 101, 210, 214, 216, 217, 221, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 310; Or previous musical experience, with permission of instructor

Curriculum: AE,HU,OC

MUSC 209 - Percussion Methods (1 Hour)
Introduction to playing and teaching percussion instruments. The course is designed for Music Majors pursuing the Instrumental Pedagogy Emphasis.
Prerequisite(s): Permission Required

MUSC 210 - Concert Choir (1 Hour)
A large, mixed-voice ensemble. Membership is open to all students by audition and with the permission of the director. The Concert Choir studies and performs traditional choral literature from the primary style periods (Renaissance through Contemporary), including spirituals/gospel and world music. On- and off-campus performances are scheduled throughout the college term. This course must be taken 3 times to fulfill the AE pillar requirement.
Curriculum: AE,HU

MUSC 211 - Applied Chamber Percussion Ensemble (1 Hour)
This course explores the art of small-group percussion performance, emphasizing technical skills, musical collaboration, and diverse percussion techniques. Students rehearse and perform contemporary and traditional repertoire for mixed percussion ensembles, developing proficiency on a wide range of instruments including mallet percussion, drums, auxiliary instruments, and found objects. Regular rehearsals culminate in a public performance. Suitable for percussionists seeking to deepen their musicianship and beginners interested in learning concert percussion instruments for performance in Wind Ensemble or Symphony Orchestra.

MUSC 212 - Applied Chamber Strings (1 Hour)
This course explores the art of small-group string performance, emphasizing technical skills, musical collaboration, and diverse string techniques. Students rehearse and perform contemporary and traditional repertoire for string quartets and larger ensembles, developing proficiency in a wide range of styles. Regular rehearsals culminate in a public performance. Suitable for experienced string players (violins, violas, cellos, and string basses)

MUSC 213 - Applied Chamber Winds (1 Hour)
This course explores the art of small-group wind performance, emphasizing technical skills, musical collaboration, and diverse wind techniques. Students rehearse and perform contemporary and traditional repertoire for woodwind and brass quintets to larger ensembles, developing proficiency in a wide range of styles. Regular rehearsals culminate in a public performance. Suitable for experienced woodwind and brass players.

MUSC 214 - Wind Ensemble (1 Hour)
Open to campus wind, brass, and percussion musicians (includes guitar, harp, and piano), regardless of major. There is no audition required, but previous instrumental experience is encouraged. The Randolph-Macon Wind Ensemble performs a broad spectrum of band music in a variety of styles, ranging from traditional wind music to modern compositions. On- and off-campus performances are scheduled throughout the college term. The course must be completed three times to fulfill the AE pillar requirement.
Curriculum: AE,HU

MUSC 216 - Jazz Improvisation Lab (1 Hour)
A mixed instrumental ensemble that studies and performs a diverse range of jazz styles and traditions. Emphasis on performance and improvisation. No improvisational experience necessary. The course must be completed three times to fulfill the AE pillar requirement.
Curriculum: AE, HU

MUSC 217 - Symphony Orchestra (1 Hour)
Open to campus string musicians (includes violin, viola, cello, string bass, harp, & piano), regardless of major. There is no audition required, but previous instrumental experience is encouraged. Wind, brass, and percussion musicians are placed in the ensemble by permission of the instructor. The Randolph-Macon Symphony Orchestra performs a broad spectrum of orchestral music in a variety of styles, ranging from the traditional canon to modern compositions. On- and off-campus performances are scheduled throughout the college term. The course must be completed three times to fulfill the AE pillar requirement.
Curriculum: AE, HU

MUSC 218 - Applied Chamber Jazz Ensemble (1 Hour)
This course explores the art of small-group jazz performance, emphasizing technical skills, musical collaboration, and diverse jazz techniques. Students rehearse and perform contemporary and traditional repertoire in a combo setting, developing proficiency in a wide range of styles. Regular rehearsals culminate in a public performance. Suitable for experienced musicians (woodwind, brass, strings, percussion, guitar, bass, singers), but no jazz improvisation experience required. Must be able to read music.

MUSC 221 - Music Theory 1 (3 Hours)
This course is an introduction to the theory of tonal music, including the concepts of simple and compound meter, keys, triads, inversions, chord progressions, simple part writing, and Roman numeral analysis. Students will also practice beginning skills in ear-training, sight-singing, and keyboard.
Prerequisite(s): placement, MUSC 101, or permission of the instructor

MUSC 222 - Music Theory 2 (3 Hours)
This course is a continuation of MUSC 221. Students will learn how to analyze diatonic harmony, chromatic harmony, and simple forms. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the historical context for how these concepts operate in Western music. Students will practice intermediate skills in ear-training, sight-singing, and keyboard.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 221

MUSC 230 - Politics of Music (3 Hours)
Throughout history, philosophers, political leaders, and citizens have celebrated and feared music's political power. This course explores the various ways music has assumed political meaning over the past two hundred years, particularly within the contexts of the United States, Europe, and the former Soviet Union. Students will study and discuss a broad spectrum of music, ranging from opera to symphonies to popular song. Readings will include composer memoirs, philosophical arguments, and contemporary music criticism.

MUSC 231 - Western Music from Antiquity to the Baroque (3 Hours)
This course examines the historical development of Western music from antiquity to the late 18th century. Students will gain a detailed knowledge of significant works and composers, as well as develop an understanding for the stylistic differences that characterize music from Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. Emphasis will be placed on critical listening and developing the skills to recognize, describe, and analyze music from varying historical periods. Some concert attendance required.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 101 or permission of the instructor

MUSC 232 - Western Music from the Classical to the Modern Eras (3 Hours)
This course examines the historical development of Western music from 1750 to the 21st century. Students will gain a detailed knowledge of significant works and composers, as well as develop an understanding for the stylistic differences that characterize music from the Classical, Romantic, Modern, and contemporary periods. Emphasis will be placed on critical listening and developing the skills to recognize, describe, and analyze music from varying historical periods. Some concert attendance required.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 101 or permission of the instructor

MUSC 240 - World Music (3 Hours)
This course familiarizes the student with the objectives and methods of inquiry used in ethnomusicology. The primary objective of this course is for students to develop the ability to identify, describe, and discuss music, in terms of both style and cultural context, in order to understand its essential role in complex sociality and cultural development. We will seek to answer some very fundamental questions about the meaning of music, and the nearly universal need for individuals and groups to create and practice it. This course surveys musical practices from around our world, and investigates methods of pedagogy (transmission), performance practices, instrument construction, and most importantly, how social, cultural, and personal identity is expressed through the activity of music making.
Curriculum: GE,HU,NW

MUSC 242 - The Music of Brazil (3 Hours)
The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the basic characteristics of a variety of popular music styles in Brazil and to begin to understand how the ongoing evolutions of these styles express the identities of those who practice them. The music will be studied with attention to the historical, social, and cultural forces which have influenced its making, and to how music may, in turn, exert its influences on those forces. We will learn about the objectives and methods of inquiry used in ethnomusicology and will seek to answer some fundamental questions about the meaning of music, and the nearly universal need for individuals and groups to create and practice it. The class will be of particular value to musicians and music students but is open to anyone with an interest in music and world culture.
Curriculum: GE,HU,NW

MUSC 243 - Film Music in Japan (3 Hours)
This travel course focuses on Japan's rich history of innovative film music. The course begins on campus with a study of Japanese music and its use in film, then travels to Japan for two weeks, where students tour important historical and cultural sites, attend musical and theatrical performances, and visit a film studio. Along the way, students gain an understanding of Japan's musical breadth and aesthetics, its noteworthy film composers, and its dynamic cultural and political history. No musical experience is required. Recommendation: one course in ASTU, FILM, or MUSC.
Curriculum: EL,NW

MUSC 244 - Music of the Francophone World (3 Hours)
Beginning in the colonial metropole of Paris, this course takes students on a musical journey through the greater Francophone world, focusing on Martinique, and exploring how history, migration, and cultural exchange have shaped diverse musical traditions. Students will trace the development of music cultures in Martinique and the Caribbean and compare them with Francophone musical traditions in West Africa and North Africa, examining how artists blend local and French musical and cultural elements to create new sounds, practices, and identities. This course highlights music both as a creative response to the colonial encounter and a powerful expression of resilience and connection across the Francophone world. Students will experience the vibrance of the music and performing arts of Martinique firsthand, providing them with a deep experiential understanding of performance that is not possible on campus through videos and photographs alone.
Curriculum: AE,HU,NW,EL

MUSC 245 - Choral Music on Location (3 Hours)
This course provides an opportunity for students to perform choral music in selected locations abroad. Students will study the choral literature of a particular country or geographical area and perform the music in several concerts while traveling in the region. Repertoire will be representative of the locations visited during the semester. This course is performance intensive and provides an opportunity to polish music beyond what is possible in a single semester and single concert. Students will work on a deeper understanding of musical language (rhythms, phrases, and harmony), the ways the text relates to music, and the strategies necessary for understanding how those concepts relate to their individual parts and the musical whole, including the importance of vocal production and diction. Additional aspects of performance are added to include performance spaces that vary in their historical and acoustical significance. Further, students will have the opportunity to experience the performance of this music literature within other cultures.
Prerequisite(s): students must be enrolled in MUSC 310 Concert Choir during the fall semester preceding the travel course

Curriculum: EL

MUSC 246 - Instrumental Music on Location (3 Hours)
This course provides an opportunity for students to perform instrumental music in selected locations (domestically or abroad). Students will study instrumental literature relating to a particular country or geographical area and then immerse themselves in that musical culture by traveling to the region. Repertoire will be representative of the locations visited during the semester. While traveling, students will attend concerts and perform in master classes given by local musicians, gaining a deeper understanding of musical context and authentic performance practice.
Prerequisite(s): Prior instrumental music experience (MUSC 214, 217, 216 preferred but not required)/permission of the instructor

Curriculum: AE,EL,HU

MUSC 247 - Music in New Orleans (3 Hours)
This travel course will focus on the history and evolution of jazz in New Orleans, culminating in the opportunity to travel to NOLA to experience its musical culture on location. Prior to the travel portion of the course, students will examine the social, cultural, and musical contexts that gave rise to jazz in New Orleans. Student will also come to understand the important venues and performers who put New Orleans jazz on the musical map, as well as the ways that other musical genres (such as blues, spirituals, sacred music of the Black Church, R&B, Hip Hop) have contributed to jazz's development in NOLA. The course will also examine the ways in which race and social justice have shaped jazz in New Orleans. The course is open to all students; no musical experience required.
Prerequisite(s): Permission required

Curriculum: AE,DI,EL,HU

MUSC 250 - Introduction to Recording Techniques (3 Hours)
This course serves as an introduction to the fundamentals of sound recording and production. Students will study the properties of sound, analogue and digital recording, and use of microphones. Students will be engaged in hands-on recording projects and the creation of multi-track recordings. Instruction in Protools and other digital software is included.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 221 or permission of instructor

MUSC 260 - The History of Rock & Roll: Popular Music from Slavery to Present (3 Hours)
This class will cover the history of popular music from its roots in the African Diaspora through the blues, jazz, country, folk, and ultimately, rock and roll. As well as studying the great rock bands, album art, and history-making recordings, students will study the evolution of the protest song, Tin Pan Alley, and why certain geographic locations became hubs of musical innovation.

MUSC 262 - Music in American Film (4 Hours)
This course offers a historical survey of American film music, beginning with its origins in the early twentieth century and extending into the current period. Students will develop an understanding of how music contributes to the film experience by examining the ways in which film composers use orchestration, thematic unity, and stylistic diversity to complement, strengthen, and even undermine the action on the screen. Students will examine original film scores across a variety of film genres, as well as explore the various ways popular music has been integrated into American film soundtracks.
Curriculum: AE,HU

MUSC 275 - History of Jazz (3 Hours)
This course explores the origins and transformations of jazz in the United States. Students will examine the musical language of jazz and the individuals who have contributed to the diversity and breadth of this distinctly American music.
Curriculum: AE,DI,HU

MUSC 281 - T:Special Topics (1 Hour)
In these courses, students learn how to perform chamber music. Emphasis is placed on small ensemble rehearsal techniques, musical interpretation, and performance. 1 credit hour. Permission required

MUSC 301 - Applied Voice (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.

MUSC 302 - Applied Keyboard (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.

MUSC 303 - Applied Woodwinds (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.

MUSC 304 - Applied Brass (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.

MUSC 305 - Applied Percussion (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.

MUSC 306 - Applied Strings (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.

MUSC 307 - Applied Guitar (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.

MUSC 308 - Instrumental Conducting (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 208

MUSC 309 - Applied Composition (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.

MUSC 310 - Choral Conducting (1 Hour)
Private lessons. Students schedule a one-hour lesson per week for 14 weeks to receive one credit hour. Each student will present a recital to be juried by the music faculty at the end of each semester. Open to all students; music majors and audition required. A special fee ($75) is charged for this course.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 208

MUSC 311 - Chamber Singers (1 Hour)
A select chamber vocal ensemble specializing in literature ranging from Renaissance to contemporary. Note: This course does not satisfy the ensemble requirement for the music major or minor. The course must be completed three times to fulfill the AE pillar requirement.
Prerequisite(s): audition required

Corequisite(s): MUSC 310

Curriculum: AE, HU

MUSC 313 - Pep Band (1 Hour)
The Pep Band provides support at athletic and campus events year-round, playing all types of popular and spirit music. Instrumentation is broad and all are welcome. Note: This course does not satisfy the ensemble requirement for the music major or minor.
Prerequisite(s): audition required

MUSC 321 - Music Theory 3 (3 Hours)
This course is a continuation of MUSC 222. Students will learn how to analyze advanced chromatic harmony and large scale forms, as well as analytic techniques for understanding nontonal music. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the historical context for how these concepts operate in Western music. Students will practice advanced skills in ear-training, sight-singing, and keyboard.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 222

MUSC 322 - Scoring through Technology (3 Hours)
This course provides an introduction to the current technological applications in music creation, including music notation, music sequencing, and MIDI software. Students will study the history of Music Technology, and complete several creative projects that focus on music arranging, orchestration, and composition.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 321 or permission of instructor

MUSC 341 - Art Song (3 Hours)
Songs are powerful. They capture our emotions, shape our moods, document our history, and stimulate our thinking. But their appeal and efficacy can often be mysterious. Is it the lyrics? Melody? Timing? Composers have long struggled to find the right formula. This course focuses on a particular type of song the art song which first emerged in the nineteenth century in the works of Schubert and Schumann and soon developed into an influential vocal genre. Art songs are intense, musical miniatures that center on a seminal creative question: how can music take poetry to new places? This course examines the musical and poetic language of art songs beginning with the origins of the genre and extending that analysis to the present day, where the genre is represented in a wider range of musical genres. Throughout the course, students will analyze songs of various kinds, as well as explore the impact of grouping songs (song cycle) to tell more complex tales. Particular emphasis will be placed on the concept album, the contemporary equivalent of the song cycle.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 221 or permission of the instructor

Curriculum: CC

MUSC 355 - Middle/Secondary Music Education Methods (3 Hours)
This class is designed to provide an environment in which the students prepare for professional immersion in the schools as a middle/secondary music educator. Students will be guided to investigate materials and methods for middle and secondary music education, collect reference resources, and begin to formulate an individual resolve regarding his/her goal of becoming a music educator. The course will seek to cover aspects of curriculum, classroom management, rehearsal techniques, performance planning and implementation, organization of ensembles and recruitment, development of parent support groups, and rehearsal techniques and discipline procedures. Topics include instructional planning, choosing and implementing a variety of instructional strategies, technology, classroom management, measurement and evaluation of performance and achievement. Students will be required to create a comprehensive instructional unit of study to be used in student teaching.
Prerequisite(s): EDUC 220-221, EDUC 321, MUSC 221, MUSC 222, and MUSC 321

MUSC 356 - Elementary Music Education Methods (3 Hours)
This class is designed to provide an environment in which the students prepare for professional immersion in the schools as an elementary music educator. Students will be guided to investigate materials and methods for elementary music education, collect reference resources, and begin to formulate an individual resolve regarding his/her goal of becoming a music educator. The course will seek to cover aspects of curriculum, classroom management and rehearsal techniques. In addition, students will work to develop essential skills for the elementary music classroom, including keyboard, lesson planning and discipline procedures. Topics include instructional planning, choosing, and implementing a variety of instructional strategies, technology, classroom management, measurement, and evaluation of performance and achievement. Students will be required to create a comprehensive instructional unit of study to be used in student teaching.
Prerequisite(s): EDUC 220-221, EDUC 321, MUSC 221, MUSC 222, and MUSC 321

MUSC 361 - Composer's Perspective (3 Hours)
This course offers a detailed study of a specific composer's, or group of composers', work and the cultural context in which it was created. Emphasis will be placed on understanding compositional style and the manner in which composers establish their musical voice. Topics will vary from year to year.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 221 or permission of instructor

MUSC 381 - Special Topics in Music (3 Hours)
Advanced study of both traditional and contemporary topics in music. Students will attend live performances and rehearsals and explore historical developments.
Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor

MUSC 382 - Special Topics in Music (3 Hours)
Advanced study of both traditional and contemporary topics in music. Students will attend live performances and rehearsals and explore historical developments.
Prerequisite(s): permission of instructor

MUSC 420 - Researching Music (3 Hours)
Music history represents a shifting landscape that requires interpretation. This course provides an introduction to the various methods for acquiring and evaluating primary musical sources. Emphasis will be placed on the correlation between musical performance and music research. Students will have an opportunity to conduct original research in a local archive and/or the Library of Congress.
Prerequisite(s): MUSC 341 or MUSC 361 or permission of instructor

Curriculum: EL

MUSC 422 - Capstone in Music (1 Hour)
This course provides music majors with the opportunity, in consultation with the music faculty, to develop and present an in-depth study of a musical topic. This can include: 1) writing a major paper on an aspect of music history or music theory; 2) preparing and performing a public recital, including scheduling, program development, and musical analysis; 3) writing an original musical composition of suitable substance and length, including production of a manuscript and oral or written presentations about the newly composed work. Topics are subject to approval by the music faculty and must be formally proposed and juried in the semester prior to taking MUSC 422.
Prerequisite(s): senior status or junior status with consent of the music program

Curriculum: CS,EL

MUSC 450 - Internship in Music (Unpaid) (3 Hours)
Qualified students are placed in an aspect of the profession of music such as recording studios, management agencies, church music, and research. Open to music majors and minors only with permission of the music faculty. Application required; see Internship Program. A special fee ($200) is charged for this course.
Prerequisite(s): minimum GPA of 3.0 in all music coursework

Curriculum: EL

MUSC 451 - Internship in Music (Unpaid) (3 Hours)
Qualified students are placed in an aspect of the profession of music such as recording studios, management agencies, church music, and research. Open to music majors and minors only with permission of the music faculty. Application required; see Internship Program. A special fee ($200) is charged for this course.
Prerequisite(s): minimum GPA of 3.0 in all music coursework

Curriculum: EL

MUSC 455 - Field Study in Music (3 Hours)
A special studies course which gives music majors and minors the opportunity for a hands-on experience in some aspect of the profession of music. With approval of the music faculty only.