

Advanced Placement Music Theory

2014-2015

Time: 3rd Period

Location: 901 & 901G

Instructor: Mr. West

Conference: 1st period and by appointment

Contact: juwest@crosbyisd.org

Prerequisites: Advanced Placement Music Theory students should meet *both* of the following criteria: 1) at least one year enrollment in Music Theory/Piano or an ensemble course (band or choir) and 2) concurrent enrollment in an ensemble course (band or choir) for this school year. Students should come prepared with a basic knowledge of music fundamentals (notation, etc.). Where there are deficiencies, students should be prepared to spend additional time at the start of the year honing those skills and understanding those concepts.

Course Description: AP Music Theory is designed as a college-level course. The course is aligned with the first-semester music theory at the college and university level. Students who successfully complete the course and the AP exam may earn placement into second-semester Music Theory (music majors or minors) and/or earn college fine arts credit (non-music majors).

Aims of the Course: The ultimate goal of the AP Music Theory course is to develop a student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The course seeks to instill mastery of the rudiments and terminology of music, including hearing and notating pitches, intervals, scales and keys, chords, meter, and rhythm. Building on this foundation, the course will progress to include more sophisticated and creative tasks, such as melodic and harmonic dictation, composition of a bass line for a given melody (implying appropriate harmony), realization of a figured bass, realization of a Roman numeral progression, analysis of repertoire (including melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, and form), and sight-singing.

Further, this AP course will emphasize aural and visual identification of procedures based in common-practice tonality including functional triadic harmony in traditional four-voice texture (with vocabulary including nonharmonic tones, seventh chords, and secondary dominants), cadences, melodic and harmonic compositional processes, standard rhythms and meters, phrase structure, small forms, and modulation to closely related keys.

This course will focus primarily on music of the Common Practice Period (1600-1900). However, other styles will be examined, where appropriate.

Developing a sensitive musical ear is at the heart of any music theory course. Accordingly, we will sing every day. The objective is not to make beautiful singers out of every student. Rather, it is to cultivate a mature ear which leads to consummate musicianship.

Textbooks:

Kostka, S. & Payne, D. *Tonal Harmony*. 7th ed.
Berkowitz, et al. *A New Approach to Sight-Singing*
Burkhart, C. *Anthology for Musical Analysis*

Materials

Each student will be provided with a three-ring binder for AP Music Theory materials.
Pencil (assignments will not be accepted in pen—NO exceptions to this rule)
Instruments: students will be notified should they need to bring their instruments to class.

Our Online Home

Course content and resources will be found on Edmodo: WestChoirandAPTheory
<https://edmo.do/j/pf6ziv> Every AP Theory student must obtain an Edmodo account and check it regularly for course content.

All AP Music Theory students must have a working e-mail address that is checked regularly. Yahoo! and Gmail are among the FREE e-mail services available. All outside of class communications will be passed along through Edmodo and/or e-mail. If you have a question about course material, please e-mail Mr. West at juwest@crosbyisd.org.

Class Rules

1. Show respect for oneself, others, and the music at ALL TIMES.
2. Come to class prepared with supplies (including a good ATTITUDE!)
3. When the instructor is speaking, students are to listen.
4. Participate fully in discussions and activities. Put forth your best effort at all times
5. Have an open mind. We are all here to learn. Don't judge a piece of music until YOU have FULLY experienced it!

Grades and Assessment

60% projects/exams/concert experiences

40% daily work/quizzes

Late Work

Assignments not submitted by the due date will be lowered one letter grade for each day it is late. **Assignments not submitted by the due date will be lowered one letter grade for each day it is late.** Assignments will not be accepted more than 4 days late. No exceptions. If you're having trouble complete assignments on time, please communicate accordingly.

Absences and Make-up Work

It is the **student's responsibility to obtain any work missed** during absence upon return. Assignments will be due on the same timeline as other students. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, the student must provide valid reasoning with legitimate documentation (as determined by the instructor) to be allowed to turn in that assignment upon return. If a student is absent on a test day, it is the student's responsibility to contact Mr. West and arrange a time to make-up the test or performance assessment within ONE WEEK of return.

Outside Study

It is unrealistic to assume that a student will benefit fully from the AP Music Theory curriculum if he or she is engaged only during regularly scheduled classroom instruction. Students will be expected to practice regularly on their primary instrument. Students should also continuously look for connections between theoretical ideals and practical concepts. If tutorials or extra help is needed, please contact Mr. West.

Concert Experiences Requirement

Each student is required to attend at least 4 live concert performances throughout the course of the year. Students must attend one concert per 9 – week grading period. Concert Experiences will be weighed as a test grade.

Permissible concert experiences include:

High school or collegiate band

High school, collegiate, or professional/community choir

High school, collegiate or professional/community orchestra

Middle school concerts do not count. To fulfill the requirement, students must complete a summary of the concert (minimum 250 words, double-spaced, 12 point font). The summary should include a description of the ensemble and the program. It should also include the student's "review" of the performance. Attach a copy of the concert program to the paper.

Concert Experiences are due one week prior to the end of a grading period on the following dates:

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 st | October 10 |
| 2 nd | December 12 |
| 3 rd | March 6 |
| 4 th | May 29 |

AP Music Theory Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

I have received, read, and understood the contents of this AP Music Theory Syllabus. I intend to meet the expectations of the class so that I (my child) will be successful.

Student's Name (Please Print):

Student's Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian's Name (Please Print):

Parent/Guardian's Signature:

Date: