

Advanced Placement Music Theory

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Course Overview

This class is strongly recommended for those pursuing a professional career in music or those who have a serious devotion to music. The class will be taught similarly to a collegiate course. You will be expected to use previous knowledge of basic music theory from ensembles, private lessons or personal theory studies. Composition, dictation, score analysis, music history and listening examples will be employed concurrently with the text to ensure mastery of the concepts.

Course Objectives

By the end of the year, you should be able to do the following:

1. Understand Western notation practices
2. Construct major and minor scales
3. Understand and use figured bass, lead sheet symbols, and roman numerals
4. Construct triads and 7th chords
5. Construct and use chords in any major or minor key
6. Compose a melody
7. Compose harmonies to accompany a melody and/or a bass line
8. Invert triads and 7th chords
9. Identify and construct cadences, motives, phrases and periods
10. Identify and use non-chord tones
11. Use and construct secondary chord functions
12. Modulate to a closely related key
13. Understand and use modes, pentatonic and whole-tone scales
14. Recognize and compose binary and ternary forms
15. Complete rhythmic, melodic and harmonic dictations
16. Sing simple melodies and rhythms by sight
17. Compose a song using all of the aforementioned points

Student Evaluation

I try to make my course as similar to a college setting as possible. One such way is the weight put on summative assessments.

Tests & Quizzes	65% (Quarter, semester tests & chapter quizzes)
Assignments	35% (Homework, compositions, dictations and sight singing)
Total:	100%

You will need to have the following with you AT ALL TIMES in this class.

- Heavy duty folder OR a three-ring binder. (I suggest the binder.)
- A pencil. (Assignments or exams done in pen WILL NOT be accepted. No exceptions.)
- Your textbook, sight reading materials or any other handouts pertaining to the chapter.
- Legible handwriting. (If I can't tell if it's a C vs. a D or a half vs. a quarter note, it's wrong. Every time.)
- A sense of humor. (Theory can be fun. I'm not kidding. Seriously, it can.)

Aural exams will be giving before or after school. I will try to be as accommodating as possible. This often is a lengthy process which would take too much class time and, therefore, ill-prepare you for the AP exam.