



Woodland High School

Fine Arts/Instrumental Music Department

AP Music Theory Class Syllabus

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Course Description:

AP Music Theory will introduce the student to harmony, structure, form, analysis, composition, style, performance, dictation, and basic musicianship. The course will develop the student's ability to describe, understand, and recognize aspects of tonal music. The student will develop skills in sight-singing, dictation/aural, written aspects, composition, and analytical areas. Students will be exposed to a variety of exercises designed to develop these skills including listening, performance, writing, creating, and analyzing music.

Course Materials:

Students will need one three-ring binder designated specifically for AP Music Theory. This binder will be used to store all class notes, hand-outs, returned work, compositions, etc. The binder will be graded at the end of each semester.

Primary Course Texts:

Kostka, Stefan and Dorothy Payne. *Tonal Harmony with an Introduction to Twentieth-Century Music*.
5th ed. New York: Knopf, 2004.

_____. *Tonal Harmony Workbook*. 5th ed. New York: New York: Knopf, 2004.

Ottman, Robert. *Music for Sight-Singing*. 6th ed. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Scoggin, Nancy. *AP Music Theory*. New York: Barron's Educational Series, 2010.

AP Music Theory Course Content:

1. Review of music fundamentals, including: scales, key signatures, circle-of-fifths, intervals, triads, and inversions.
2. Weekly ear training, including rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic dictation.
3. Weekly sight-singing
4. The study of modes
5. The study of figured bass and Roman numerals
6. The study of two-part counterpoint
7. The study of four-part harmony in the 18th century style
8. The study of seventh chords
9. The study of secondary-dominant functions
10. The study of musical form
11. The study of compositional techniques

AP Music Theory Course Objectives:

1. Identify and notate pitch in four clefs
2. Notate, hear, and identify simple and compound meters
3. Notate, identify, sing, and/or play all major scales and three forms of minor scales; pentatonic and whole tone scales.
4. Name and recognize scale degree terms
5. Notate pitch and rhythm in accordance with standard notation practices
6. Correctly notate and identify, by ear, all intervals within one octave
7. Correctly sing all intervals within one octave
8. Notate, hear, and identify all triads and inversions
9. Notate, hear, and identify all cadence types in major and minor keys
10. Harmonize a melody
11. Analyze chords in a standard musical composition using Roman numerals through provided examples
12. Notate, hear, and identify non-harmonic tones



13. Identify basic musical forms by ear and sight
14. Correctly dictate basic 6 – 12 bar melodies, harmonies, and rhythms in both major and minor keys and in duple, triple, simple or compound time
15. Sight-sing a melody, 4 – 8 bars long, major or minor key, duple or triple meter, simple or compound time
16. Notate the soprano and bass pitches with the Roman numeral analysis of harmonic dictation, 4 – 8 bars long, major or minor key
17. Realize figured bass, through written assignments, according to the rules of 18th century chorale style in both major and minor keys
18. Compose a 32 bar piece using common compositional practices studied in class.
19. Students will attend one concert every 9 weeks and submit a paper about the concert, using appropriate musical vocabulary and demonstrating listening and analytical skills.

AP Music Theory Student Evaluation

All student grades will be based on a combination of class work, homework, quizzes, lab work, unit exams, notebook material and aural skill demonstration. The following is a breakdown of how grades will be determined:

Class Participation	5 %	Quizzes	15 %
Student Notebook	5%	Unit Exams	25 %
Lab Work	10%	Final Exam	20%
Homework/Projects	20%		

AP Music Theory Course Outline:

A. Part One – Music Fundamentals (approx. 9 weeks)

Chapters 1 – 3

- Scales – Major, minor, modal, pentatonic and whole tone.
- Key Signatures
- Intervals
- Rhythm
- Triads and Chords

Chapter 4: Diatonic Chords in Major and Minor Keys

- The minor scale in 3 forms
- Diatonic Chords
- Diatonic Seventh Chords

Sight – Singing/Ear Training

- Introduction to numbers or solfege
- Simple stepwise dictation 3, 5, 7, & 10 note patterns
- Simple pitch and rhythmic dictation

B. Part Two – Diatonic Triads (approx. 12 weeks)

Chapter 5: Voice Leading

- The Melodic Line
- Notating Chords
- Voicing a single chord
- Parallel Motion

Sight-Singing/Ear Training

- Simple diatonic melodies

Chapter 6: Root Position Part Writing

- Repeated Roots
- Root Movement by 4ths, 5ths, 3rds, 2nds
- Instrument Ranges and Transpositions
- In-class/out of class student composition assignments/arranging.

Sight-Singing/Ear Training

- Simple diatonic melodies



Chapter 7: Harmonic Progression

- Sequences and the “Circle of Fifths”
- The I, V, ii, vi, iii, vii, IV chords – Major Keys
- The i, V, ii°, III, VI, viiØ, iv, - minor keys
- Realization of Roman numeral progression
- Realization of Figured bass
- Harmonizing simple melodies
- Continued In-class/out of class student composition assignments/arranging.

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Simple diatonic melodies
- Harmonic Dictation

Chapter 8: Triads in First Inversion

- Bass Arpeggiation
- First Inversion Triad Substitution
- Parallel Sixth Chords
- Part writing four part textures
- Soprano/Bass Counterpoint
- Continued In-class/out of class student composition assignments/arranging.

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Simple diatonic melodies
- Harmonic Dictation

Chapter 9: Triads in Second Inversion

- Bass Arpeggiation and the Melodic Bass
- The Cadential, Passing, and Pedal six-four chords
- Part writing six-four chords

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Simple diatonic melodies
- Harmonic Dictation

Chapter 10: Cadences, Phrases, and Periods

- Musical Form
- Cadence Types
- Cadences and Harmonic Rhythm
- Motives and Phrases

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Simple diatonic melodies
- Harmonic Dictation

Chapter 11: Non-Chord Tones

- Classification of Non-Chord Tones
- Passing Tones
- Neighboring Tones
- Suspensions and Retardations
- Figured Bass
- Embellishment

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Simple diatonic melodies
- Harmonic Dictation



Chapter 12: Non-Chord Tones 2

- Appoggiaturas
- Escape Tones
- The Neighbor Group
- Anticipations
- Pedal Point

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Simple diatonic melodies
- Harmonic Dictation

C. Part Three – Diatonic Seventh Chords (approx. 12 weeks)

Chapter 13: The V7 Chord

- Voice Leading Considerations
- V7 in Root Position
- Inversions of the V7 chord
- Approach to the seventh

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Complex melodies/meters
- Harmonic Dictation

Chapter 14: The II7 and Vii7 Chords

- The II7 Chord
- Vii7 Chord in Major and minor keys

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Complex melodies/meters
- Harmonic Dictation

Chapter 16: Secondary Functions

- Chromaticism and Altered Chords
- Secondary Functions
- Secondary Dominant Chords
- Spelling, Recognizing, and Writing Secondary Dominant Chords

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Complex melodies/meters
- Harmonic Dictation

Chapter 18: Elementary Modulation Using Common Diatonic Chords

- Definitions: Modulations, Change of Key, Tonicization
- Key Relationships
- Common-Chord Modulation
- Analyzing Common-Chord Modulation

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Complex melodies/meters

Chapter 20: Binary and Ternary Forms

- Terminology
- Binary and Ternary Forms
- Rounded Binary Forms

Sight-Singing/ Ear Training

- Complex melodies/meters
- Harmonic Dictation



AP MUSIC THEORY EXAM

The AP Music Theory exam is given in May. All students who participate in this class are expected to take the AP exam. Students who achieve a 3 or higher are eligible for college credit, depending on college entrance guidelines. More information will be given as we progress through the year.

STUDENT/PARENT CONSENT OF UNDERSTANDING:

I have read and understand all of the objectives, requirements, and expectations for

_____ taught by _____.

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN, FOR A DAILY GRADE, BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2015.