

# Advanced Placement Music Theory

## Course Syllabus

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**AP Music Theory** is a full year, college-level course for 1 academic credit. This course expands upon the basic concepts taught in Creative Music Foundations, an entry level music theory course. The course will prepare students who are planning on majoring in music for their first year of college Music Theory classes. Completion of this course will have prepared the student to take the Advanced Placement Music Theory Test.

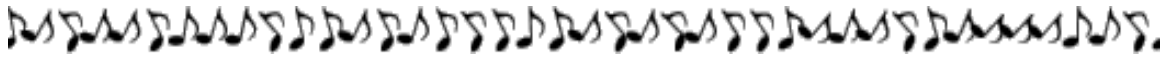
**Google Classroom Code:** uwu6j7p

### Course Materials & Resources

- Spencer, Peter & Barbara Benning. 2017. *The Practice of Harmony, seventh edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ. Pearson/Prentice Hall.
- Berkowitz, Sol, Fontrier, Gabriel, and Kraft, Leo. 1960. *A New Approach to Sight Singing*, New York, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.
- Burstein, L. Poundie & Joseph N. Straus. 2016. *Concise Introduction to Tonal Harmony*. W.W. Norton & Company.
- Clendenning, Jane Piper & Elizabeth West Marvin. 2010. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*. W.W. Norton & Company. (Supplemental text)
- Kalmus, Edwin F. J. S. *Bach Four Part Chorales Volume 1 – Number 1 to 198*, New York, Kalmus Publisher of Music
- Burkolder, J. Peter, Donald J. Grout & Claude V. Palisca. 2006. *A History of Western Music, seventh edition*. W.W. Norton & Company. (supplemental text for repertoire - pp. 287-799)
- Grout, Donald J. and Claude V. Palisca. *Norton Anthology of Western Music volumes I-II*. W.W. Norton & Company (supplemental text for repertoire)
- Technology Aids
  - MusicTheory.net (compiled by Ricci Adams) interactive tutorials: [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net)
  - Choral Tech, an interactive sight singing program: [www.choraltech.org](http://www.choraltech.org)
  - On line Ear training interactive site: [www.good-ear.com](http://www.good-ear.com)
  - AP Central website: [apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-music-theory](http://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-music-theory)

### Course Content

includes Music fundamentals (key signatures, scales, modes, intervals, triads, and rhythm), Ear Training (rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic), Sight Singing, figured bass, four-part harmony,



seventh chords, common compositional techniques, and musical analysis of Western music. Musical examples will come from the following texts (also listed under Course Materials):

- Burkolder, J. Peter, Donald J. Grout & Claude V. Palisca. 2006. *A History of Western Music, seventh edition*. W.W. Norton & Company. (supplemental text for repertoire - pp. 287-799)
- Grout, Donald J. and Claude V. Palisca. *Norton Anthology of Western Music volumes I-II*. W.W. Norton & Company (supplemental text for repertoire)

## Course Outline

Unit 1 – Review and master basic skills of clefs, scales, key signatures, and modes.

Unit 2 – Rhythm notation

Unit 3 – Intervals and Triads (recognition and writing), inversions

Unit 4 – Four part harmony writing

Unit 5 – diatonic seventh chords

Unit 6 – secondary dominants

In addition to these units of study, students will have daily sight singing, ear training, or listening exercises throughout the year. Students will also take a midterm and final exam for this class.

## Class Guidelines:

- **Arrive on time** and have all necessary materials with you. (If you are late you **MUST** have a pass.)
- Wear a mask or face shield.
- Throw away gum if you're chewing it.
- **ASK QUESTIONS!** I can't help unless I know what the problem or question is!
- **Please take care of restroom needs before class.** Students will only be permitted to use the bathroom during class under emergency circumstances.
- Bring your charged Chromebook *daily*
- *Leave your egos at the door - be encouraging to your classmates.*

## Virtual Guidelines:

### Daily Virtual Meeting Procedures:

- Be on time – log-on 2-3 minutes before the start of class to make sure the connection, video and speakers are working properly; the Google Meet link will appear at the top of the Google Classroom banner
- Make sure your sound is muted to start
- Have your course materials and a pencil at your workstation

### Virtual Meeting Guidelines:

1. Noise/Distraction Control
  - a. Use paper and pen to take notes
  - b. No texting or other phone use during the meeting (unless needed for an in-class activity)
  - c. Stay focused on the class or task at hand



- d. No eating
2. Dress Appropriately (school dress code applies)
3. Set the Stage
  - a. Clear background
  - b. Good lighting (lights on and not near a window)
  - c. Quiet location
  - d. Nothing inappropriate in the background
4. Stay seated and present
  - a. Look at the camera (keep it on) and stay active
  - b. Make sure your whole face can be seen on the screen
  - c. Your preferred name (first and last) should be your name on your video
5. Mute your microphone when you're not talking
6. Speak clearly and with enough volume so everyone can hear you
7. Use chat for questions
  - a. Keep chat focused on academics only
  - b. Everyone can see your chat. Be appropriate
8. No recording or distribution of any video conferencing is permitted

## Homework Policy:

**Any homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date.** Half credit will be given for assignments turned in after class on the due date until the end of the next day. After that you will receive a 0. *It is better to turn in an assignment for half credit than not at all.*

Students will not be permitted to go to their locker to get an assignment. Be prepared when you come to class.

Assignments missed due to absence will have 2 days to be made up. If you are going to be absent due to a music lesson, sporting activity, or field trip, the assignment must be turned in prior to leaving.

**Pencil is strongly recommended for any homework related to music theory - it's easier to erase something than cross it out multiple times!**

## Course Planner

(all chapter references are from *The Practice of Harmony, 7th edition* by Spencer/Bennett - we will be completing multi-page exercises included in that book for each designated chapter)

### First Semester- Musical Foundations

#### First nine weeks

Week 1 – overview of class

**Chapter 1** – Clefs and Pitch class

Week 2 – **Chapter 2** - tetra chords – major scales

Weeks 3, 4 - **Chapter 2** (cont.) – major scales, minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic), modal scales, pentatonic scales, whole tone scales

Weeks 5-6 – **Chapter 3** – Key Signatures and Scale Degrees, relative and parallel minors



Week 7 - **Chapter 4** – The Quality of Intervals

Week 8 – **Chapter 4** – Interval Inversions, Compound Intervals

Week 9 – review and assess

#### Sight Singing/Dictation Planner First Nine Weeks

Week 1 – Introduction to Solfege

Week 2,3 – Fixed Do, Moveable Do, Number system

Week 4,5,6 – Scale line melodies, simple meter, major tonic triad intervals

Week 7,8,9 - Scale line melodies, compound meter, major tonic triads

#### Second nine weeks

Week 1 – **Chapter 5** – triads

Week 2 – **Chapter 5** – Triads in Major and minor keys, begin Roman Numeral Analysis of Chord Progressions

Week 3 – **Chapter 6** - Notation of Rhythm, meter signatures

Week 4 – **Chapter 7** – **Four part vocal writing**, Roman Numeral Analysis of Chord Progressions, study of musical forms (simple binary, rounded binary, ternary, theme and variation, strophic)

Week 5 – **Chapter 7** – **Four part vocal writing**, Roman Numeral Analysis of Chord Progressions, continue study of musical forms (simple binary, rounded binary, ternary, theme and variation, strophic)

Week 6 – **Chapter 8** - **Primary triads in Root Position**, Cadences Voice Leading, Primary chords in combinations, Roman Numeral Analysis of Chord Progressions

Week 7-8 – Composition project #1

Week 9 – Mid Term Semester assessment

#### Sight Singing/Dictation Planner Second Nine Weeks

Week 1,2,3 – triads in major/minor keys, diatonic pitches, melodies with skips up to the third scale degree

Week 4,5,6 – triads in major/minor keys, diatonic pitches, melodies with skips up to the fifth scale degree, Outer voices of primary triads, cadences

Week 7,8,9 - triads in major/minor keys, diatonic pitches, melodies with skips up to any scale degree, Outer voices of primary triads, cadences

#### Third Nine Weeks

Week 1 – **Chapter 9** – **Primary Triads in First Inversion**, Realization of Figured Bass, Roman Numeral Analysis of Chord Progressions

Week 2 – **Chapter 10** – **Primary triads in Second Inversion**, Roman Numeral Analysis of Chord Progressions

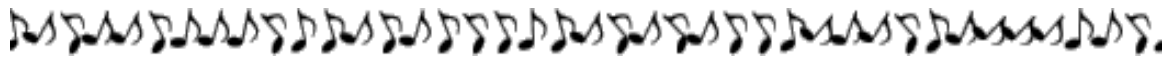
Week 3 – 4 part vocal writing incorporating primary triads, inversions, cadences, incorporating Roman Numeral Analysis and analysis of motivic treatment

Week 4 – Assess writing skills

Week 5 – **Chapter 11** - **Secondary Triads**, Roman Numeral Analysis of Chord Progressions

Week 6 – **Chapter 15** – **Diatonic Seventh Chords**, Roman Numeral Analysis of Chord Progressions

Week 7,8 – **Chapter 12 and 13** – The Harmonization of Melodies, Phrase Structure, Non Chord tones (passing tones, neighboring tones, changing tones, appoggiaturas, escape tones, anticipations), analysis of motivic treatment



Week 9 – Review and Assessment

Sight Singing/Dictation Planner Third Nine Weeks

Week 1,2,3 – Primary triads outer voices, chromatic pitches

Week 4,5,6 – Secondary Triads outer voices, Seventh chords, chromatic pitches

Week 7,8,9 – Primary and Secondary Triads, Seventh Chords, Major and Minor Keys, Chromatic pitches, simple and compound meters

Fourth Nine Weeks

Week 1 – **Chapter 14** – Suspensions

Week 2 – **Chapter 16** – The Harmonization of Melodies II, modulations to closely-related keys, phrase structure

Week 3,4,and 5 – review released AP test free response questions, recorded sight singing exercises, listening exercises

Week 5,6 – Complete released AP Music Theory Exam

Week 7,8,9 – Composition Project #2

Sight Singing/Dictation Planner Fourth Nine Weeks

Week 1,2,3,4 – review released AP Test free response questions with Aural stimulus

## Course Assessments

Each marking period grade is based on a point system. Every assignment and test/quiz has its own point value. At the end of the marking period, the total points a student receives is divided by the points possible and the resulting percent is the marking period grade. If you are unsure of a grade, please ask!

- Daily Bell Ringer: 2 points
- Weekly Current Event: 5 points
- Textbook/workbook assignments and homework: 5-15 points
- Pop Quizzes: 5-10 points
- Announced Quizzes: 10-15 points
- Rhythmic/Melodic/Harmonic Dictation activities: 5-15 points
- Midterm Exam: 50 points
- Final Exam: 75-100 points

## Parent/Guardian Signature

Please [follow this link](#) to sign virtually on the Google Form to acknowledge that you have received this information.