

Springville High School AP Music Theory

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Welcome to AP Music Theory at Springville High School! I am excited that you have chosen to enroll in this rigorous and rewarding class. I look forward to working with each one of you. Your choice to be self-motivated, focused, and determined to succeed is paramount to your enjoyment of the concepts this course will teach you.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

It is assumed that you enter this class having a well-rounded understanding of the fundamentals of music. The goals of this course are to expand upon the knowledge you currently possess. A brief review of music fundamentals will be covered during the first few weeks of the course. I highly encourage you to always keep a notebook close by, both during class discussions and as you practice your skills at home. Manuscript / staff paper will also be of great benefit to your learning, and is expected to be with you each class day.

In the AP Music Theory course, students will study, practice, and analyze the musical principles of Western Tonal Music. A specific focus will be directed upon the following musical elements: Melody, Harmony, Meter, Rhythm, Dynamics, Tempo, Timbre, and Instruments/Voice. The analytical study of each of these elements in context with theory, music history, aural analysis, and composition will require much of you, but will open many doors of musical opportunity for you.

With a "pass" grade on the AP Music Theory exam administered in May 2012, students may earn college credit for music theory courses. The pace, scope, rigor, and behavior expectations for this course will be that of a first year college course. Expect to work much harder for an "A" in this course than you would in a regular high school course. AP Music students are expected to register to take the AP Music Theory Exam. If you are not planning to take the test at the end of this course, you should not continue your enrollment in this class.

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS

All students are expected to have all learning materials with them in class daily. Such materials will include:

Textbook (Tonal Harmony, by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne)

Barrens AP Test Prep Workbook

Lined Paper Notebook for notes

Manuscript/Staff Paper Notebook for notes

Pencil with an eraser

Completed homework assignments that are due

ATTENDANCE

You are expected to be on time to class each and every day it is held. Consistent, regular attendance without tardy's will greatly enhance your learning and be of great benefit to you. Unexcused absences are not tolerated. If you miss class work, quizzes, exams, or lectures due to an unexcused absence, do not expect make-up opportunities to be given to you. When possible, please notify me in advance, of any excused absences that you must take so that I can give you assignments and work for study while you're absent. That way, you'll not fall too far behind in the class. Work missed due to an excused absence may be made up and turned in for full credit one class period after returning to class. Exams missed due to an excused absence may be made up no later than one week after returning to class.

BELL WORK

Bellwork will be given nearly each day class is held, and are given at the beginning of the class period. Students who are tardy or absent (excused or unexcused) from class may not make up the bell work.

TESTS

All of the objectives for this course are evaluated by means of exams. An exam will follow each chapter and some units in our text. Exams will also include aural examinations, sight singing, and melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic dictations. Tests missed due to an excused absence may be made up no later than one week after returning to class.

HOMEWORK:

Homework is very important to your success throughout the course. It is impossible to have complete mastery of this subject without consistently completing the homework. It is to your benefit to turn your assignments in on time. Students will be expected to keep a notebook of all assignments throughout the year. Your homework will be checked and accounted for on the due dates posted in class. **WARNING:** Leaving your homework to do all at the end of a chapter or unit of study will not be beneficial to you! New concepts will drown you, and it will be nearly impossible to catch up. I encourage you to be incredibly consistent and wise!

LATE WORK

Assignments are expected to be turned in on the due date. If turned in the day after the assignment is due, students will receive a 10% grade reduction. After the second day, assignments may still be turned in up to one week later from the original due date for 50% credit. Turn late assignments directly to Mrs. Crockett. Assignments that are past due over one week from the due date will not be accepted.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to come to class with complete homework assignments so that you're able to fully participate in meaningful singing and listening activities, and class discussion. Students who are off task disrupt their own learning, the learning of others, and the teaching. If you cause a problem in class for you or others, you'll need to figure out how to fix it...

MID-YEAR PROJECT:

Project is worth 100 points. This project is designed to allow you to show your ability to synthesize the knowledge you have gained over the first two terms of study, and create a piece of music following the principles of part-writing and music theory you have mastered.

FINAL PROJECT:

Project is worth 100 points. This project is designed to allow you to show your ability in applying the theoretical principles you have learned to a creative composition in the instrumentation and genre of your choosing (rap noise excluded.) Your project idea will need to be approved by Mrs. Crockett before you begin working on it. I would hate for you to do a lot of work on a project that will not be acceptable! You will submit a final score of your composition, and will need to provide a live, in-class performance of your composition. Since the principles of melodic composition will be expected to appear in your work, arrangements of existing compositions will not be accepted. Your composition must be original.

CONCERT REPORTS:

In order to enhance your learning of concepts discussed, and help you master your aural skills, students are expected to attend one recital or concert (aside from ones that you yourself participate in) each term (4 concerts total.) The concert must be of a classical nature such as a choir, band, or orchestra concert, and be at the high school, university, or professional level. The report will consist of a written descriptive essay, one page double-spaced. The concert program and ticket for your chosen concert must be attached to the essay. An opera, symphony's, "Music and the Spoken Word" broadcasts with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and University performances are encouraged. Again, the concert must be on the high school, college, or professional level, nothing younger than high school. Please talk with Mrs. Crockett if you have questions concerning the validity of a concert. Again, I would hate for you to do a lot of work on a concert report that will not be acceptable. Concert reports are due a week before the end of each term. Late concert reports will not be accepted. A grading rubric for concert reports is provided below:

AP MUSIC THEORY EXAM:

Throughout this course of study, all students will be given sequential and appropriate opportunities to be fully prepared to take the official AP exam in May, 2012. All students enrolled are expected to take the exam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is expected that you will demonstrate honesty and academic integrity at all times. In this class, cheating or plagiarizing in any way will not be tolerated.

Cheating is defined as:

Looking at someone else's quiz or test

Looking at notes during a quiz or test

Talking to other people during a quiz or test

Using a cell phone or any other electronic device in any way during a quiz or test

Copying from a book, magazine, newspaper article, or from an internet site without citing the source

Plagiarizing any work in any form that is not your own

Submitting assignments that are late, claiming that you have an excuse that is in reality, dishonest

The penalty for cheating will result in a "zero" on the assignment/quiz/opportunity without the possibility of making it up. Your final term grade will also be lowered by one whole grade placement (i.e. an "A" will be lowered to a "B".) Do your own work! A few points for a grade are not worth sacrificing your honor and your personal integrity.

COURSE RIGOR

Again, this AP course is designed to function at a level representing a beginning college course. Students and parents should understand therefore, that the workload and expectations of this course are considerably higher than the normal high school course. In general AP Music students should spend on average, at least 2 hours of study outside of class for every hour spent in class. That means for a 3-day class week, students should spend at least 9 hours independently outside of class. For the 2-day class week, students should spend at least 6 hours independently outside of class. In order to be successful, students should carefully plan their study time into their schedule. Most AP Music students are involved in performing ensembles that also take considerable time out of a student's daily schedule. Therefore, AP Music students generally cannot afford to be complacent in their scheduling of appropriate study time to practice the methods and principles that will be taught. A daily and consistent study schedule will significantly benefit your studies.

GRADING:

It is important that both students and parents understand that the instructor does not award grades. Each student has equal opportunity to earn the grade they so desire.

Grading Scale:	A	94-100	C+	77-79
	A-	90-93	C	73-76
	B+	87-89	C-	70-72
	B	83-86	F	0-69
	B-	80-82		

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Disclosure Signature Page

I have read and understand the contents of this disclosure document for the course of AP Music Theory at Springville High School, and agree to adhere to the principles and guidelines presented. I also understand that this course will be a rigorous study of music equivalent to a first year college course.

Printed Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student Email: _____

Student Phone: _____

Printed Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone: _____