

# Advanced Placement Music Theory

Instructor: Tyrone Stanley  
6<sup>th</sup> Period, Guitar Room

## Course Overview

**AP Music Theory** is designed for students in both vocal and instrumental music that aspire to understand music at a higher level than the average high school musician. The course is a year long study of music from the Common Practice period (ca. 1600-1900). Students will study across the music curriculum in both vocal and instrumental areas to better understand music as a whole.

## Course Objectives

*Students should have achieved the following by the end of the second semester:*

1. Have a knowledge and understanding of music fundamentals (note values, key signatures, intervals, triads, inversions, basic rhythm, and scales)
2. Notate pitches and rhythms correctly in a given key following standard practice rules.
3. Write simple rhythms, melodies, and harmonies by ear.
4. Understand and identify major and minor scales.
5. Know and follow **ALL** rules of musical composition from common practice.
6. Sight sing melodies in treble, bass, and movable “C” clef.
7. Analysis of music and through the use of Roman Numerals.
8. Harmonize a melody with chords following correct voice leading procedures.
9. Understand basic musical forms (Phrase Structures, Binary [AB], and Ternary Forms [ABA])
10. Understand and recognize the correct transpositions of instrumental keys
11. Recognize all intervals octave and below by singing and ear.
12. Understand and realize figured bass through Roman Numerals.
13. Understand and write secondary function chords (V/V etc.)
14. Understand basic Jazz harmony and progression.
15. Understand and write basic counterpoint and contrapuntal relations between Soprano and Bass voices.

## Course Outline

The course outline will give concepts and exercises taught each nine weeks. However, this is an estimate that could change due to school conflicts and class mastery of certain concepts. There will be written homework and sight singing practice given during or after each class for the development of musical skills. **No homework will be accepted after two (2) full days of school in the event of an excused absence.** The class will also be expected to take the AP Music Theory exam in the second semester, and also to complete a major project at the end of the term.

## Text

Kostka, Stefan and Dorothy Payne. *Tonal Harmony*, 5th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2004.

**Course of Study: First Semester  
First Nine Weeks**

**Weeks One through Nine (*Tonal Harmony*):**

1. Introduction to AP Music Theory: Students will get overview of course through guidelines given in the AP Music Theory Course Description guide book. Students will be given short examples of what the AP exam will look like and how it will be administered.
2. Chapter One: Elements of Pitch
3. Chapter Two: Elements of Rhythm
4. **Exam: Chapters One and Two**
5. Chapter Three: Introduction to Triads and Seventh Chords
6. Chapter Four: Diatonic Chords in Major and Minor Keys
7. **Exam: Chapters Three and Four**

**Practices Related to AP Exam:**

1. Begin dictation using three notes only (no rhythms)
2. Begin practicing with simple exam based questions (scales and intervals, key signatures)

**Weeks One through Nine: Sight Singing**

1. Scale and linear movement
2. Simple Meter
3. Tonic Triad Intervals (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>)
4. Major Keys
5. Introduction to Compound Meter
6. Treble and Bass Clef Melodies

**Second Nine Weeks**

**Weeks Ten through Eighteen (*Tonal Harmony*):**

1. Chapter Five: Principles of Voice Leading
2. Chapter Six: Root Position Part Writing
3. Chapter Seven: Harmonic Progression
4. **Exam: Chapters Five, Six, and Seven**
5. Chapter Eight: Triads in First Inversion
6. Chapter Nine: Triads in Second Inversion
7. **Exam: Chapters Eight and Nine**
8. Midterm Review: Chapters One through Nine
9. Midterm Exam: Written Project- Guidelines given at beginning of week Fourteen  
Homework Examples taken from *Tonal Harmony* workbook and *Practice of Harmony*

**Practices Related to AP Exam:**

1. Begin dictation using four and five notes (basic rhythms: quarter and half notes).
2. Begin practicing with moderate exam questions (triads, rhythmic ties, inversions, minor analysis).
3. Dictation with six or more notes (basic rhythms)
4. Pass out modified Free Response questions.
5. Begin Roman Numeral practice from Bach Chorales and short piano works.

**Weeks Ten through Eighteen: Sight Singing**

1. Compound Meter
2. Intervals from Tonic Triad (all intervals)
3. Minor Keys
4. Intervals from the Dominant Chord
5. Introduction to the Alto and Tenor "C" clef
6. Beginning Rhythm and Melodic Duets

**Course of Study: Second Semester  
Third Nine Weeks**

**Weeks One through Nine (*Tonal Harmony*):**

1. Chapter Eleven: Non-Chord Tones (suspensions, retardations, passing tones)
2. Chapter Twelve: None Chord Tones (escape tones, neighbors, anticipations, appoggiaturas)
3. **Exam: Chapters Eleven and Twelve**
4. Chapter Thirteen: The V7 chord (proper uses and inversions)
5. Chapter Fourteen: The II7 and VII7 chords (proper uses and approaches)
6. Chapter Fifteen: Other Diatonic Seventh Chords (IV7, VI7, I7, and III7)
7. **Exam: Chapters Thirteen through Fifteen**
8. Chapter Ten: Cadences, Phrases, and Periods (Binary and Ternary Form) (Half, Plagal, and Authentic Cadences)
9. **Exam: Chapter Ten**
10. **Composition Project: A written composition using rules through Chapter Ten**  
*Homework Examples taken from Tonal Harmony workbook, Practice of Harmony, and 371 Harmonized Chorales*

**Practices Related to AP Exam:**

1. Take two (2) 16 question multiple choice Practice AP exams.
2. Begin practicing with real Free Response Questions.
3. Begin using bass line and soprano line dictation examples (very basic rhythms).
4. Melodic Dictation examples (more advanced rhythms and use of bass clef).
5. Roman Numeral Realization with and without Bass line.

**Weeks One through Nine: Sight Singing**

1. Continuation of Melodic interval training from Dominant and Tonic
2. Introduction to Tritone (augmented 4<sup>th</sup> or diminished 5<sup>th</sup>)
3. Subdivision of Simple and Compound Rhythms
4. Use of Melodies with Dominant V7
5. Duets both Rhythmic and Melodic
6. Introduction to Chromaticism

**Fourth Nine Weeks**

**Weeks Ten through Eighteen (*Tonal Harmony*):**

1. Chapter Sixteen: Secondary Functions (Sec. Dominants, Recognition of S.D., and Chromaticism)
2. Chapter Seventeen: Secondary Functions (Secondary Leading Tones, recognition of S.L.T., Sequences involving Secondary Leading Tones)
3. **Exam: Chapters Sixteen and Seventeen**
4. Chapter Eighteen: Common Chord Modulation (key relationships and Common tone modulation)
5. **Exam: Chapter Eighteen**
6. Basic Counterpoint with two voices (Soprano and Bass) and the relationships of those voices.
7. **AP MUSIC THEORY EXAM** (will be scheduled around here)
8. Begin Jazz Theory and basic Jazz compositional techniques
9. **Final Exam:** Comprehensive Written Project (vocal or instrumental)  
*Homework Examples taken from Tonal Harmony workbook, Practice of Harmony, and 371 Harmonized Chorales*

**Practices Related to AP Music Theory Exam:**

1. Take AP Music Theory Released Exam
2. Continue Practicing released Free Response Dictation and analysis questions
3. Practice Dictation using Bass and Soprano
4. Practice Dictation with advanced rhythms and melodic line
5. Take AP Practice Exams (only 15 multiple choice questions)
6. Roman Numeral Realization with and without Bass line.

**Weeks Ten through Eighteen – More Advanced Sight Singing**

1. Chromatic Harmony (V/V chords)
2. Introduction to Syncopation and subdivided duets
3. Modulation from the Dominant (melodic)
4. Modulation to closely related keys

**Grading Scale**

<b>Written Homework</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Dictation Quizzes</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Sight Singing quiz (one per Nine Weeks)</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Written Quizzes</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Chapter Examinations</b>	<b>25%</b>

**Late/Early Make up Policy:** Any late work **must** be submitted or made up within **2 days** of an excused absence. In the event of a school related activity absence work can be given early, including tests, but the student must set up a time for any early work. All test and homework will be available for students to keep as a study guide after they are graded.

**IMPORTANT:** All work in Music Theory is **PENCIL ONLY!** Anything done in pen will automatically be reduced by 10 points!!!