

AP Music Theory (PA 2700)
GRADING POLICY & COURSE EXPECTATIONS
2016–2017

Dr. Michael Driscoll

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<http://michaeldriscollconductor.com/courses/ap-music-theory/>

The ultimate goal of the AP Music Theory course is to develop your ability to recognize, understand and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score.

GENERAL CLASS INFORMATION & GOALS

AP Music Theory develops aural and analytical skills necessary for a thorough understanding of music composition and theory. In this class we will study the fundamentals of musical structure and composition and study musical trends from a variety of historical periods. Upon completion of the course, students are prepared to take the AP Music Theory Exam. Students planning to major in music in college may be able to enroll in an advanced music theory course, depending on individual colleges' AP policies. Students are not required to take the AP Music Theory exam, but are highly encouraged to do so. The AP Music Theory test will be given on Monday, May 8, 2017.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

This class, like the AP test itself, is aurally based. Knowing the theory with pencil and paper is just part of the story – well-trained musicians also know it with their ears. Though no one will be penalized for lack of vocal skills, students should expect to do a lot of singing. Some of you will have more experience and training in this area than others, so you will need to be prepared to put in some extra work. The development of aural skills takes long and steady training, but it is worth it! Whatever you end up doing in life, your lifelong enjoyment of music will be enhanced by the work you do in this class.

A sizeable portion of class time will be devoted to ear training. This includes drills, exercises, short dictations, sight singing, and listening to recorded musical excerpts. Homework loads will vary over the course of the year, but homework assignments are generally given at the end of each class. Students with minimal background in reading music should expect to spend extra time each week on the homework during the early weeks in order to catch up with those who have more experience. Likewise students who have little experience with singing may have to devote more time to that skill in order to develop solid aural skills.

GENERAL RULES

Main expectations

1. Be on time
2. Have necessary materials and be ready to work without being asked
3. Strive for improvement
4. Be respectful of others
5. No gum, food or drinks (except water) in the classroom
6. No cell phones or other electronic devices except when given explicit approval to use them

Be ready every day to take on new challenges.

Most of what you will learn in class will be because of your individual commitment to learning the work at hand. Testing and homework assignments will be given throughout the year and you will be expected to complete each one on the designated completion date. New material is given in class daily. If you miss class, you are expected to learn all of the material missed, get the handouts given out, and check with Dr. Driscoll for important announcements that you may have missed.

A textbook will be assigned to you. It is your responsibility to make sure that your textbook has a cover on it throughout the school year. **DO NOT WRITE IN YOUR TEXTBOOK.** You will be charged replacement cost if your textbook is lost or damaged.

Only one student at a time is allowed to go to the bathroom. If bathroom privileges are being abused or if a student asks too frequently to leave class to use the bathroom, Dr. Driscoll reserves the right to refuse.

CLASS MATERIALS

- *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis* by Jane Piper Clendinning and Elizabeth West Marvin.
- Notebook (3-ring binder) divided into 3 main sections:
 - Notes/Handouts
 - Homework/Written Assignments
 - Exams
- Manuscript paper (available in class)
- PENCIL. We use pen very rarely in this class.
- Additional handouts provided by Dr. Driscoll.

GRADING & ATTENDANCE POLICY

Grades for Music Theory will be based on attitude, preparation, participation, attendance and quizzes/exams. Grades are based approximately on the following percentages:

40	Homework/Written Assignments
25	Exams
20	Classroom Participation
10	Attendance/Tardiness
5	Quizzes

Letter grades are assigned according to the BHS handbook:

A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

Classroom Participation

The attitude you bring to class affects not only your work, but the work of the whole class. A large percentage of your grade is based on attitude and participation in class. This is a fairly subjective grade so, it is important that you make a consistent effort to participate in all class activities. Disrupting class will adversely affect your attitude/effort grade. A rubric for class participation will be handed out at a later date.

Please:

- No speaking or playing when Dr. Driscoll is speaking.
- No speaking or playing when another member is asking a question or addressing the class.

Attendance/Tardiness

Tardiness and Absences will affect your grade. You are expected to arrive for class on time. The clock in the chorus room is the official clock! The following attendance policy will be strictly enforced.

- You are given **two “free” tardies** per quarter. Each tardy beyond the first two is a deduction of **2 points** from your quarter grade.
- You are given **five “free” absences** per quarter. Each absence beyond the first four absences (excused or unexcused) is a deduction of **5 points** from your quarter grade. You may make up absences beyond the 4 “free” absences - see Dr. Driscoll for ways to make up the missed time. It is your responsibility to keep track of the number of absences per quarter. If you are unsure of the number of absences, you should ask Dr. Driscoll.

Homework/Written Assignments

- Written assignments are due at the beginning of each class session unless otherwise arranged (in the case of excused absences, illness, etc.).
- Late work is accepted but 10 percent is deducted for each day it is late.
- **Extra credit is not awarded.**
- If you lose your homework assignment, extra copies will not be provided. Instead, go to Dr. Driscoll’s website and download and print the missing assignment. This area of the website is password protected. See Dr. Driscoll for the password.
<http://michaeldriscollconductor.com/courses/ap-music-theory/>

Quizzes & Exams

- Short quizzes are given randomly throughout the term and a comprehensive exam is administered at the end of each quarter or major course unit.

Please Note: Teachers are not obligated to provide work in advance for planned absences or to provide individual instruction upon the student’s return.

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I have read, understand and agree to abide by the BHS AP Music Theory Grading Policy and Course Expectations.

Student name (please print)

Student signature

I have read and agree to the BHS AP Music Theory Grading Policy and Course Expectations for my child.

Parent signature

Date

DUE by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE ONLY. Keep the other pages for your records.