Burke AP Music Theory

Primary Texts:

Supplemental Texts:

Description:
This course is designed for the student who intends to pursue music as a career. Music Theory is a "must have" class for all music degrees. This course is also designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Test.

Throughout the course, students will learn how music is put together (the fundamentals of music), how aural discrimination (ear training) and visual discrimination (sight singing) will help prepare the student for the world of music, how the application of learned concepts can be applied to performance, and how composition is a learned skill that needs practice and application.

Goals:
1. Students will gain the knowledge to read and write music.
2. Students will gain the necessary aural skills to successfully identify, comprehend, and sight-sing steps, intervals, and complex rhythms.
3. Students will be sufficiently prepared for the AP Exam, theory placement tests, and college-level theory upon pursuit of higher education.
Requirements:
1. All formative and summative assessments that are not technology/performance based must be completed in pencil to receive credit.
2. Homework is assigned nearly daily when we are working from the textbooks.
   Please try to complete your homework individually but if you need to, use your resources! Call classmates, e-mail me, look it up in your book or Google it!
   Success in music theory depends on "doing" rather than "listening and memorizing." It is a skills-based class!
3. Reading: If reading is assigned in your book, please read it!
4. Materials: Please obtain your own loose leaf manuscript paper. A 3-ring binder will also be needed, divided up with tabs in the following sections:
   a. Handouts
   b. Notes (either a notebook or loose-leaf)
   c. Summative Assessments
   d. Listening
   e. Compositions & Arrangements
   f. Blank staff paper

Resources:
www.musictheory.net
www.myap.collegeboard.org

Grading:
- Summative Assessments: 65%
- Formative Assessment: 35%

Spring Semester Final Exam:
If you elect to take the AP Music Theory Exam, you will be exempt from the spring semester final of this course. You will still have to attend class on those two days of the semester, but will not have to participate in the final.
Absences/Makeup work:
Since this is an Advanced Placement course, material is covered very quickly. It is in your benefit to come to class each day and keep up with your work. If you miss class, get caught up immediately or you will find yourself way behind sooner than you might expect!

Homework is due at the beginning of the class that it is due on. Please do not try to rush & finish homework that is due - just turn it in late.

If you are absent from school, homework and assignments must be turned in 2 blocks after it was assigned. For example, if an assignment was assigned on Monday and you were sick, that assignment would be due Friday rather than Wednesday. However, if you are absent from school the day an assignment is due, it will be due the next day we have class. You are responsible for getting the assignment either from me or from another student. If you know you will be gone ahead of time, please get your homework in advance! This is why it is a good idea to have a buddy to get the notes from in case you are gone. Tests are made up on your own time. Please meet with the instructor to discuss a time to make up the test. Remember that you are in charge of making sure your assignments are turned in on time and you are keeping up with all of your work. I am always happy to work with you during my office hours if you need any help.
Course Schedule:

Music Fundamentals

Unit 1: August 15 - September 12
Summative – September 16
- Pitch and Pitch Notation
- Rhythmic Values
- Half Steps and Whole Steps
- Major Scales and Scale Degrees
- Major Keys and Key Signatures
- Simple and Compound Beat Division
- Meter and Time Signature
- Rhythmic Patterns
- Tempo
- Dynamics and Articulation

Unit 2: September 18 – October 28
Summative – October 30
- Minor Scales: Natural, Harmonic, and Melodic
- Relative Keys: Determining Relative Minor Key and Notating Key Signatures
- Key Relationships: Parallel, Closely Related, and Distantly Related Keys
- Other Scales: Chromatic, Whole-Tone, and Pentatonic
- Interval Size and Quality
- Interval Inversion and Compound Intervals
- Transposing Instruments
- Timbre
- Melodic Features
- Melodic Transposition
- Texture and Texture Types
- Texture Devices
- Rhythmic Devices

Unit 3: November 1 – December 10
Summative – December 12
- Triad and Chord Qualities (M, m, d, A)
- Diatonic Chords and Roman Numerals
- Chord Inversions and Figures: Introduction to Figured Bass
- Seventh Chords
- Seventh Chord Inversion and Figures

Harmony and Voice Leading

Unit 4: January 8 – January 31
Summative – February 4
Weeks 11, 12, & 13 Chapters 9 & 10
- Soprano-Bass Counterpoint
- SATB Voice Leading
- Harmonic Progression, Functional Harmony, and Cadences
- Voice Leading with Seventh Chords
- Voice Leading with Seventh Chords in Inversions

Unit 5: February 6 – March 2
Summative – March 4
- Adding Predominant Function IV (iv) and ii (ii-dim) to a Melodic Phrase
- The vi (VI) Chord
- Predominant Seventh Chords
- The iii (III) Chord
- Cadences and Predominant Function
- Cadential 6/4 Chords
- Additional 6/4 Chords

Unit 6: March 6 – March 31
Summative – April 2
• Embellishing Tones: Identifying Passing Tones and Neighbor Tones
• Embellishing Tones: Writing Passing Tones and Neighbor Tones
• Embellishing Tones: Identifying Anticipations, Escape Tones, Appoggiaturas, and Pedal Points
• Motive and Motivic Transformation
• Melodic Sequence
• Harmonic Sequence

Unit 7: April 6 – April 22
Summative – April 24
• Tonicization through Secondary Dominant Chords
• Part Writing of Secondary Dominant Chords

• Tonicization through Secondary Leading Tone Chords
• Part Writing of Secondary Leading Tone Chords

Unit 8: April 28 – May 8
Summative May 12
• Modes
• Phrase Relationships
• Common Formal Sections

AP Music Theory Exam – May 13

Finals – May 18/19

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!