

TIMPVIEV HIGH SCHOOL

AP Music Theory Disclosure 2017-2018



Instructor: **Dr. Marcel Bowman**

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Email is my preferred method of communication.

Class web page: <http://timpview.provo.edu/faculty-staff/teacher-course-directory/Bowman-Marcel/>

Why take an AP Class?

Here is a quote from the AP College Board:

Strong correlations exist between AP success and college success. Educators attest that this is partly because AP enables students to receive a taste of college while still in an environment that provides more support and resources for students than do typical college courses. Effective AP teachers work closely with their students, giving them the opportunity to reason, analyze, and understand for themselves. As a result, AP students frequently find themselves developing new confidence in their academic abilities and discovering their previously unknown capacities for college studies and academic success.

Gilbert De Benedetti, an AP Music instructor, writes:

One purpose of teaching AP Music Theory is to give our students an appreciation for how music is composed, thereby helping them to perform more musically. If music theory is the study of the structure behind the music, ... then knowledge of this structure helps our students to study what they are to play or sing. The study and understanding of their music, in turn, results in intelligent and sensitive performances.

Students gain a deeper understanding of music as they listen to recordings of and analyze scores, or written music. They will also develop skills in written theory, ear training, sight singing and composition. Students develop intellectual discipline, discrimination and analytical skills, which is applicable to other endeavors. This yearlong course approximates the first year of theory study required in a music program at a college or university. It is anticipated that students will prepare to take and pass the AP Music Theory Exam to qualify for college credit.

Course Objectives

- At the conclusion of the AP Music Theory course, students will be able to:
- Define musical terms and theoretical concepts.
- Understand and construct key signatures, scales, intervals, and triads.
- Recognize, notate, and sing or play scales, intervals, triads, rhythms, and melodies.
- Sing diatonic and simple chromatic melodies at sight.
- Construct compositions in two- and four-part texture.
- Analyze harmonic structure utilizing Roman numerals and figured bass.
- Identify cadences and musical forms.

Fundamentals

Though there is no prerequisite for this course, it is recommended that students take the course after they are familiar with reading notes and rhythms in the treble and bass clefs. Students who do not have a strong “fundamentals of theory” background should take a beginning theory course first (if there is time) or will need to spend time outside of class honing their skills so that they may become proficient in a very short period of time. I personally recommend flash cards (old school method, but still works) or finding websites, games, phone apps, or whatever electronic or other media is available to help them in this.

Materials needed for the class

1. **3-ring binder**, preferably 1-inch size or larger and with 5 dividers for "Homework, Handouts, Quizzes, Scores, Manuscript Paper."
2. **Music manuscript paper**. Can be loose leaf pages you buy at the music store or pages you print from: <http://incompetech.com/graphpaper/musicstaff/>
3. **Finale NotePad® 2012 software (cost \$9.95)**. See Syllabus for more details. <http://www.finalemusic.com/products/finale-notepad/resources/>
4. **Thin Dry erase markers** (a couple of them would be good, in case one dries up).
5. Access to a **piano or piano keyboard**, preferably one with **full-size keys**. Those who do not own a piano may purchase an electronic keyboard for around \$100-200 or less. Learning music theory is much easier when one understands the piano keyboard, because so much of it is based on it. Piano keyboards are also frequently available in my room during lunch, or before or after school.

Additional resources

Ricci Adams' Music Theory website: www.musictheory.net
José Rodríguez Alvira's music theory site: <http://teoria.com/>

Grade level

The AP College Board has stated that the students who do the best on AP Exams are generally in the 11th or 12th grade. Additionally, universities do not always recognize student coursework under grade 10 as viable. Notwithstanding this, there is no age minimum to take the AP Music Exam, and they acknowledge that some students are exceptional, and may be able to pass the exam no matter what grade they are in.

Class load/Attendance

Since this course approximates a first-year college course, college level work is expected. In addition, students will need to spend about an hour or more preparing for each class period including readings, homework, studying for quizzes/tests, etc. It would not surprise me if the total workload per week were about **4-6 hours**. **Students will need to check their email or the class website for assignments due each class period, regardless if I forget to tell them in class.**

Late Work

Homework is assigned every class period, and there is a tendency in some students to get behind. Late work will only be accepted one class day late, unless unusual or extenuating circumstances arise. If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to find out what was missed and turn in the work due.

Grading

Grading will be based on the following:

Homework	50 pts. each	Music Listening	20 pts. each
Tests/Quizzes	100 pts. each	Composition Assignments	100 pts. each
Final Project	200 pts.		

AP Music Exam

This exam will be offered at the end of the year: **May 13, 2018, from 8-12 AM**. The exam will be held on campus and will take about 4 hours to complete. Students are expected to take this exam and pass it. The exam is scored on a scale of 1-5, 5 being the highest. Students who score a “3” or higher pass the exam. A “3” is considered average (like a C), a “4” good (B), and a “5” excellent (A). The AP Exam may only be taken once at the conclusion of the course, and it may end up being the same week as AP Exams in other subjects. I believe you may repeat the course and take the exam again in a different year. The exam costs approximately \$93. Students on reduced fee lists may qualify for a \$30 reduction. For more information, please see the following website link, or see a school counselor.

http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about_faq.html

Conclusion

My intent is not to scare anyone away from taking the course. On the contrary, but I do want to make sure that everyone involved understands the level of expectation and involvement the course requires. As always, my door is always open for help. Please let me know when there are questions or concepts you are struggling with so I may find other ways to help. That is my job!

Thanks and best of luck,

Dr. Bowman

MarcelB@provo.edu

Please turn in to Dr. Bowman ASAP, thanks!

AP MUSIC THEORY AGREEMENT

Student: I will do my best to be positive, hard working, responsible (and musical). I understand late work will not be tolerated.

Student name: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Student email address: _____

Parent: I have read and agree to abide by the above guidelines during my child's enrollment in AP Music Theory / MUS 1110 (Music Theory I) Concurrent Enrollment at THS/UVU.

Parent name: _____

Parent signature: _____

Parent email address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____