



**Northview High School  
Fine Arts Department  
AP Music Theory  
2017-2018  
Mason Copeland, Instructor**

### **Instructor Contact Information**

Mr. Mason Copeland [copelandm1@fultonschools.org](mailto:copelandm1@fultonschools.org)

**Meeting Time:** 3<sup>rd</sup> period

**Meeting Place:** 785

### **Course Description**

Everyone remembers the songs they grew up hearing. They resonate in the deepest recesses of our brains and call forth emotions that make up the very core of who we are. While this course will largely focus on Western music of 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries,(specifically 17<sup>th</sup> century part writing) the class is first and foremost about connecting the building blocks of music to the repertoire we experience, both in our daily lives and in the concert hall. You, the student, are encouraged to remember why the study of music interested you in the first place and to allow the study of its theory to enhance this interest and curiosity.

### **Course Objectives**

By the conclusion of the AP Music Theory course, students will be able to:

- Define basic musical terms and theoretical concepts
- Understand and construct major, minor, chromatic, whole tone, and modal scales
- Demonstrate the ability to construct and analyze major, minor, augmented, and diminished intervals and triads
- Recognize, audiate, and sing or play scales, intervals, triads, rhythms, and melodies
- Sing simple conjunct and disjunct diatonic melodies at sight
- Construct compositions in four-part texture
- Analyze harmonic structure utilizing Roman numerals and figured bass
- Identify basic form and cadences

Although the curriculum described in the AP Music Theory Course Description is followed, students will also be introduced to valuable information that is not covered on the AP Music Theory Exam, such as acoustics, overtone series, transposition, composition, and arranging. This information will enhance students' study of music and encourage success in musical study at the collegiate level.

## **Texts**

Tonal Harmony, 5<sup>th</sup> edition- Stefan Kostka & Dorothy Payne- textbook is provided; workbook must be purchased by the student.

**Workbook ISBN 0077269969** Search on Amazon. Prices vary.

## **Assessment**

Attendance/Participation – 20%

Homework/Composition Assignments – 40%

Musicianship Tests and Quizzes – 25%

Exam – 15%

## **Composition Assignments**

There will be two composition assignments that correspond with each semester. More detail will be given as these projects are assigned. The instructor will give an adequate amount of time to complete each project.

## **Materials**

Textbook, workbook, manuscript paper (print online for FREE!), folder/binder, pencil (**not pen!**)

## **Other Important Information**

- Late work will be accepted but student's grade will lower one letter grade per day late.
- Per the Fulton County policy, if a student misses school due to an excused absence, that student has as many days to make up the work as the student was absent.
- In the event of an absence on a test or quiz day, the student has up to three school days after returning to school to approach me about scheduling a make up. After that time, no make up will be administered.
- Pop quizzes can not be made up.
- Students are encouraged to schedule help sessions as soon as they are needed. Sessions can be scheduled with me or a fellow student tutor by appointment.
- Students are encouraged to spend a considerable amount of outside class time honing their skills for this course and the exam. How well each individual does on the exam is ultimately up to the individual.
- Per the Fulton County Board of Education policy recovery opportunities are available upon **student request** and approval from the choral director.

## **Course Outline**

**Written:** The course text, **Tonal Harmony**, will be followed with the estimated breakdown on the following page. Exercises from the corresponding workbook will be assigned and the use of music software/technology is strongly recommended outside of class time.

**Aural:** Aural Skills will include Melodic and/or Harmonic Dictation, and Sight-singing. Sight-singing materials will be supplied.

### **Estimated Course Timeline**

Weeks 1-4: Chapters 1 and 2. Emphasis on music fundamentals, pitch and rhythm.

Week 5: Chapter 3. Introduce construction of triads and seventh chords, continued review of previous material (n.b.- once material is presented, it is considered fair game on any subsequent test).

Week 6: Chapter 4. Diatonic chords in major and minor keys, emphasize scale degree qualities, computer drills.

Week 7: Chapter 5. Principles of voice leading, the melodic line, voicing triads, traditional chord progressions, part writing introduced.

Weeks 8 and 9: Chapter 6. Root position part writing rules and procedures, instrument ranges and transpositions. **First Semester Midterm Exam**

Weeks 10 and 11: Chapter 7. Harmonic progressions, harmonizing a melody.

Weeks 12-14: Chapters 8 and 9. Triads in first and second inversions (respectively), emphasize use and part writing rules for each.

Weeks 15 and 16: Chapter 10. Musical forms—small forms, cadence types, motives, phrases, and periods. Examine music of Mozart and Haydn, and other small form compositions.

Weeks 17 and 18: **Review for semester exam. Practice AP test. Semester Exam.**

Weeks 19-21: Chapters 11 and 12. Non-chord tones—definitions and classifications, embellishing a simple texture.

Weeks 22 and 23: Chapter 13. The Dominant Seventh ( $V^7$ ) Chord—part writing, use, resolutions, inversions and approach.

Weeks 24 and 25: Chapters 14 and 15. Continuation of Diatonic Seventh Chords, specifically the  $II^7$ , the  $VII^7$ , and others.

Weeks 26 and 27: Chapters 16 and 17. Secondary Functions—definitions, secondary dominants, spelling, recognition, resolutions, common chord progressions, etc.

Weeks 28 and 29: Chapters 18 and 19. Common Chord Modulations, Other Modulatory Techniques. Emphasis on listening and compositional analysis.

Weeks 30-31: Chapter 28. Introduction in 20th Century theoretical practices including but not limited to scales, chord structures, and compositional procedure through analysis and composition

Weeks 32-35: Review for AP exam. Take practice exams, revisit necessary material, emphasize dictation and Sight-singing proficiency, final preparations.

Week 36: Compose a work for instruments of the students choosing. Required for all students.

**AP Music Theory Exam Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00a.m.**