***AP MUSIC THEORY COURSE SYLLABUS - SILVER LAKE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL***

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**Course Description**

*The Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory course enables highly motivated students to engage in college level work in the areas of reading and analyzing notated music and aural training. Particular emphasis will be placed upon developing listening skills, sight-singing ability, and knowledge of rhythm, melody, harmony, and other compositional devices. The successful student will be endowed with the skills necessary to function intelligently in any musical situation. The work of the course will emphasize preparation for the advanced placement music theory examination.*

**Major Instructional Goals**

*The ultimate goal of the AP Music Theory course is to develop a student’s ability to “recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score.” The achievement of this goal may be best promoted by integrated approaches to the student’s development of:*

 *Aural Skills – through listening exercises*

 *Sight-singing skills – through performance exercises*

 *Written skills – through written exercises*

 *Compositional skills - through creative exercises*

 *Analytical skills- through analytical exercises*

**Grading**

**Participation** = 20% (active participation, punctuality and attentiveness, being prepared for class)

**Tests/Quizzes** = 40% (announced/unannounced quizzes, written/performance exams)

**Assignments** = 40% (class work, homework, projects, papers)

*The Mid-term Exam will be a multi-part assessment of written, aural, and performance based questions. It is a smaller version of the AP exam.*

*The Final Exam is the AP exam. If you choose not to take the exam or poor grades reflect your unpreparedness for success on the exam, a multi-part symphonic analysis will taken in lieu of the AP exam.*

***Late Work*** *– Projects and papers will be accepted late, but will be docked 10% for the first day and 50% after that.*

***MakeUpWork*** *– It is* ***YOUR*** *responsibility to find out what you missed when you were absent. Homework is due 2 classes after the date of the absence. All exams missed due to excused absences must be made up within a week of the date of the absence. Many of our in class assignments and homework will be drill and practice types of assignments offered to help you master new skills. These will be graded on a 0,check -,check, check + system . Other assignments and tests will be standard assessment style assignments given to measure your level of mastery. These will be graded using a letter grade on a standard percentage point scale.*

**AP Exam**

*This course is designed to prepare you for the AP Music Theory Exam in May of 2012. Taking the AP test is not required, although it is HIGHLY recommended. The AP Examination in Music Theory assesses the student’s understanding of musical structure and compositional procedures through recorded and notated examples.*

*The exam gives strong emphasis is given to listening skills, particularly those involving recognition and comprehension of melodic and rhythmic patterns, harmonic functions, small forms, and compositional technique. Most of the musical examples are taken from standard repertoire. The examination assumes fluency in reading, musical notation, and a strong grounding in music fundamentals, terminology, and analysis. The AP Music Theory Exam is about 3 hours long and consists of the following three sections:*

***Section I*** *- 75 multiple-choice questions, some of which are based on aural stimulus.*

***Section II****- written free response questions.*

***Section III*** *- two sight-singing exercises.*

**Attendance and Discipline**

*For all disciplinary actions and offenses please see the student handbook.*

*The following items are not permitted in class for student use:*

* *Cell phones, ipods, mp3 players, and other electronic devises*
* *Hats (baseball caps and winter caps)*
* *Food and drink (other than water)*
* *Water must remain at your desks and not in the technology areas*

**Materials**

**Textbook** (provided)

Clendinning & Marvin. *The Musican’s Guide to Theory and Analysis (text),* New York: WW Norton and Company, 2005.

**Supplies**

*2” Binder with labeled dividing tabs*

*Pencils: no written work is accepted in pen*

*Eraser*

*Loose-leaf staff paper: purchase at a music store or download/print:* [*www.musictheory.net*](http://www.musictheory.net)

*Ruler/Straight-edge*

**Academic Integrity**

*Written work on* ***all*** *course assignments must be done* ***individually****. This includes, but is not limited to, homework questions or problems, lab reports, essays, and term papers. In general, it is acceptable to seek help and discuss assignments with your peers, but when you are ready to formulate your written response, this must be done* ***on your own****. This is the difference between working together and copying. Copying from another source, such as another student’s work or information found on the internet, without citing that source, is* ***plagiarism****. Students caught plagiarizing will be dealt with as outlined on page 44 of the Student Handbook under the section “Academic Dishonesty.”*