

Music Theory and Ear Training Course Syllabus

Course: Music Composition
Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Description

Music Composition is a third or fourth year course for advanced instrumental and vocal seniors. Prerequisite for the course is prior completion of or concurrent enrollment in Advanced Placement Music Theory. Students analyze works from the standard repertoire and use them as models in composing original pieces.

Content Standards

DCPS music content standards make up the core skills, concepts and knowledge for Music Composition:

1. Perform a variety of repertoire.
2. Improvise, compose, and arrange.
3. Read and notate music.
4. Listen, analyze, and evaluate.

These standards are incorporated in the course outline below.

Course Outline

The student will:

1. perform all tasks covered in Theory III and Advanced Placement Music Theory.
2. analyze, harmonically and formally, scores in various styles written in various periods, with emphasis on works from the 20th and 21st centuries by composers such as Ravel, Schönberg, Bartok, Messiaen, and Glass.
3. compose original pieces using as models pieces that have been analyzed. Projects usually include small instrumental forms (binary, ternary, etc.), a setting of a text for voice, an invention in the style of Bach, and a theme and variations
4. sight sing advanced-level melodies and perform complex rhythm patterns.
5. write advanced melodies and two-part settings from dictation.
6. write advanced rhythm sequences from dictation.
7. write from dictation the soprano, bass, and harmonic analysis of a chorale in a major or minor key.
8. demonstrate knowledge of standard instrumental transpositions.
9. arrange pieces for various ensembles.
10. write compositions and arrangements using *Finale* computer software.

11. perform own compositions and those of other students in the composition recital
12. demonstrate responsibility and commitment to composition through regular attendance, participation, and preparation.

Materials: *Music Theory Reference Handbook* by Janet Peachey, music for analysis, sight-singing materials, pencil, eraser, manuscript paper, theory notebook; computer with MIDI keyboard.

Materials: worksheets, sight-singing materials, pencil, eraser, manuscript paper, composition notebook.

Course Requirements

1. Students must be in class on time each day. Any absence must be supported by a note from home. Three tardies equal one unexcused absence. Five unexcused absences within an advisory result in a grade reduction for that advisory. Ten unexcused absences within an advisory result in an automatic F for that advisory. Thirty unexcused absences within a school year result in an automatic F for the year.
2. Students must take all tests, quizzes, and final examinations. Make-ups will be given only for excused absences.
3. Students must turn in all class assignments at the end of the class and homework assignments on the designated due date. A student who has missed a class for any reason, including legitimate school performances, must make up all class and homework assignments that were missed.
4. Students must keep a theory notebook with all class notes, completed assignments, and handouts.
5. Students must bring all required materials to class each day: pencil, eraser, theory notebook, textbook (if given a textbook). All written work must be done in pencil.
6. Students may not eat, drink, or chew gum in class. The use of electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, or MP3 players during class is strictly prohibited.
7. Students must participate in classwork. Sleeping or misbehaving in class will not be tolerated.

The grade for each advisory will be based on the following areas:

Participation	10%
Practice and Application	50%
Assessments (completion of compositions and performance in composition recital)	40%