

## **SYLLABUS**

### **AP 551.100 AP MUSIC THEORY**

**Robert Young McMahan, DMA,  
Prof. of Music, The College of New Jersey  
June 18-22, 2018**

#### Session Plan

Throughout our sessions, AP tests and guidelines, text books, study sheets, online sources, software, and teaching techniques will be discussed in the spirit of mutual learning and sharing of experiences and materials. Participants are encouraged to bring in and demonstrate and/or discuss favorite lesson plans, textbooks, and teaching techniques in the areas of sight singing, ear training, written harmonic skills, analysis, and compositional skills throughout the week.

#### **Course Description:**

This course is designed for new and experienced AP Music Theory teachers. It will provide a review of the issues of musicianship, theory, musical materials, and procedures. Participants will gain familiarity with creative teaching activities/strategies and will devise their own activities and materials for use in their classroom. With collaborative input from the instructor and others in the class, participants will develop a detailed syllabus for the course and will explore assessment tools and techniques to prepare students for the AP Music Theory exam. Participants should emerge from this course with a clear understanding of the objectives and performance each of their students should attain in the high school AP Music Theory course.

#### **Course Standards:**

##### College Board Advanced Placement Teacher Standards:

1. Content Knowledge
2. Pedagogy and Student Learning
3. Analysis and Reflection
4. Ongoing Professional Development

##### Graduate Programs in Education Outcomes:

1. Knowledge – Theory: Apply knowledge of educational theory research, and/or philosophy related to the area of specialization or certification.
2. Knowledge – Assessment: Demonstrate understanding and use of types of assessments appropriate to the area of specialization or certification/

3. Knowledge – Diversity: demonstrate knowledge of concepts related to diversity, and the interaction between concepts related to diversity in the area of specialization or certification.
4. Skills – Theory: demonstrate the ability to incorporate theory and research into practice related to the area of specialization.
5. Skills – Problem-Solving: Use problem solving/critical thinking strategies appropriate to the area of specialization.
6. Skills – Reflection: Use reflective practice within the area of specialization.
7. Skills – Communication: Demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills related to the area of specialization.
8. Skills – Technology: Use a variety of technologies appropriate for working in the area of specialization.
9. Dispositions – Diversity: Demonstrate positive disposition toward diversity and equity.
10. Disposition – Professionalism: Demonstrate professionalism in one’s demeanor, behavior, conduct, decision-making and interaction with colleagues.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Review of Music Theory and Ear Training skills at the first-year college level
2. Discuss special methods of teaching Music Theory and Ear Training
3. Inspect the AP Music Theory Exam and grading rubrics
4. Create syllabus acceptable for AP approval

**Schedule for the Week:**

**First Day:**

Personal introductions  
 Overview of AP Music Theory  
 Study of AP Melodic Dictation exams. (FR 1, 2 released exams)

Study of AP Multiple Choice exam, Section 1A, aural stimulus (released exams)  
 Study of AP Multiple Choice exam, Section 1B, visual stimulus (released exams)  
 Discussion of requirements for 1A, B.

*Project 1:*

- a. *Develop FR1, 2 sample compositions, and question set based on recorded aural stimulus (1A section).*
- b. *Suggested readings: Articles appearing at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers> on the AP Central website. These articles discuss various issues and aspects of teaching Music Theory, syllabus creation, various class scheduling formats, etc., about which participants (particularly novices) may have questions and concerns.*

**Second Day:**

Study of AP Harmonic Dictation exam (FR3, 4 released exams)

Discussion of development of aural skills

Study of AP sight singing exam (S1, 2 released exams).

Discussion of AP sight singing requirements and various teaching methods

Discussion of numerical analysis, voice leading, and harmonizations of figured bass and soprano lines in light of AP exams FR 5, 6, and 7

*Project 2:*

*Develop FR 3, 4 sample compositions, following all rules discussed regarding harmonic progression and voice leading*

*Project 3 (Final Project):*

*Commence developing an AP Music Theory syllabus for your school and a **sample lesson plan**; both, whether complete or in draft form, will be discussed on the fourth day and possibly part of the fifth day, depending on class size.*

**Third Day:**

Further discussion of compositional rules in light of FR 5, 6, 7, as needed

Further discussion of compositional rules and syllabi and lesson plan formation, as needed.

*Project 4:*

*Construct figured bass, numeral, and soprano line harmonization exercises similar to FR 5, 6, and 7.*

*Continue work on your syllabus*

**Fourth Day:**

Presentation of participants' syllabi assignments

Presentation of lesson plans, as time permits

Discussion of materials of music theory, including software and online programs

**Fifth Day (half day):**

Continuation of presentations of lesson plans

Discussion of materials of music theory, as needed

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## **Requirements for Graduate Credits**

**AP 551.100 AP Music Theory**  
**Dr. Robert Young McMahan**  
**Goucher College**  
**June 18-22, 2018**

### **1. Projects:**

All projects except the development of a syllabus will normally be done and checked during class meetings. Project 3 (Syllabus) due no later than two weeks after final class on Friday.

Email your final project to me at [mcmahan@tcnj.edu](mailto:mcmahan@tcnj.edu) if you are not handing it in on the last day of class. (Again, it must be emailed to me no later than two weeks after the last day of class.)

### **2. Attendance Policy:**

If you are taking the course for credit, no absences are permitted. You must attend all five days all day to receive graduate credit. The College Board requires 30 hours of in-class attendance for an AP class to be endorsed. Without 30 hours of attendance, we cannot issue a certificate of course completion even for audit.

### **3. Instructions to receive an official transcript after the completion of the course:**

Goucher College does not issue grade reports. You can obtain your grade approximately 3 weeks after concluding the course by going to the Goucher website ([mygoucher](http://mygoucher)) and follow the prompts to receive your grade. There is no charge for this request. Please allow 3-5 working days to process.

If you need a paper copy of grades for tuition reimbursement, you will need to request a transcript in writing. You can fax your request to Student Administrative Services (SAS) at 410-337-6504 or mail to SAS at:

Goucher College, SAS  
1021 Dulaney Valley Road  
Baltimore, MD 21204