
COURSE SYLLABUS: MUSIC THEORY, MUS361 & 362

Fall 2015 - 2th Hour, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:26am – 9:12am
Instructor: William N. Rowley
Music Department
Dubuque Senior High School

Course Description

In Music Theory, students will gain a deeper understanding of the fundamentals of the music they hear, play, and sing. Topics of study include but are not limited to history, scales, modes, intervals, transposition, chords, harmonic analysis, formal analysis, and composition. This is a course designed for the most serious music students who plan to continue their study of music at the collegiate level or wish to pursue it as a major life activity.

Standards

The National Core Art Standards guides educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school.

Creating

- Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work.

Performing/ Presenting/ Producing

- Anchor Standard #4. Analyze, interpret, and select artistic work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #5. Develop and refine artistic work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.

Responding

- Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.
- Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Connecting

- Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.
- Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Assessments

Students will be guided through bi-monthly units progressing through a graduated set of mastery skills based in functional harmony and related materials. For each unit, students will have a lecture, computer lab based moduals, and aural testing. Once students have a rudimentary grasp of functional harmony, students will be required to create a project based upon arranging, transcription, or composition. The instructor will work with the individual student continuously to guide their progress through their project. The top projects will be performed at the New Music Concert in the beginning of the second semester. Future projects will be featured at the jazz studio performance at Dubuquefest or on one of the spring concerts.

Contents

The material that will be covered in this class includes: stave recognition, all ½ step relationships, intervals, all rhythmic relationships, triads, simple meter, compound meter, subdivision and prime resources, tempi, nomenclature, all major and minor scales, 7th chords and extensions, functional harmony and typical chord progressions, cadences, period music, form and analysis.

Instructional Strategies

A variety of strategies will be utilized for this class. A majority of this class will be personalized to fit the need of the student. Strategies will include auditory examples, visual examples, lectures, small and large body movement, jamming and trading ideas, critical listening to recordings, computer games and programs.

Resources

Many diverse resources will be used in this class including: Software: Finale, Smartmusic, Band in a Box, Garage Band, Sony Sound Forge, MIDI Files, Practica Musica, MiBac Music, and Alfred Music Theory package. A host of websites will also be published for students use in the beginning of this course of which there are too many to list in this publication.

Academic/Behavioral Expectations

Music theory is such an individualized course of study that it requires the sincere interest of the student. Class content will be customized to fit each student's level of ability and spark their interest in their area of creativity within the course content. Each student is expected to take ownership in their own project and stay open to new ideas. Each student is expected to acquire a rudimentary knowledge of functional harmony within the first quarter so that they may start their projects in November.

Grading Plan

Class Participation:	20%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Individual Project:	30%

Communication Plan

Office 563-552-5603, Cell 563-599-9389

email: wrowley@dbgschools.org

Bi-Monthly Memorandum with future dates

Remind101

Facebook – Dubuque Senior High School Band

Website – www.dubuqueseniormusic.com