

Music Theory 1 Syllabus

Mr. Larsen

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Music Theory 1

Welcome to Music Theory 1 at Colby High School. This course is for students who wish to gain a better understanding of music and how music works. Music Theory 1 is taught as an introduction to music theory through the learning of scale patterns, chords, melody, harmony, composition, and more. This class will incorporate music examples from various periods in history, as well as music in today's society. Although a "theory" course, students will have several opportunities to engage themselves creatively throughout the semester through composition, group performance, etc.

What is this class going to look like during COVID?

This class is held 2nd hour, which means it will meet on Mondays and Thursdays, 9:55-11:35am. My vision at this time is to do a 20-30 minute lecture at the start of each class, learning something new. The stopping points for these lectures will be (roughly) the self-tests found in each chapter. Then, the next 20-30 minutes will be spent working on the Self-Tests together as a group. This will be practice for the homework assignments. The last 30 minutes or so will be your time to complete the homework that corresponds to that day's lesson, all completed on Music First.

Course Topics

The following topics will be covered in this course.

1. Music Fundamentals

- a. Elements of Pitch, Elements of Rhythm, Triads and Seventh Chords, Diatonic Chords in Major and Minor Keys.

2. Diatonic Triads

- a. Principles of Voice Leading, Root Position Part Writing, Harmonic Progression, Triads in First Inversion, Triads in Second Inversion, Cadences, Phrases, Periods, and Sentences, Non-chord Tones

3. Diatonic Seventh Chords

- a. The V7 Chord, The II7 and VII7 Chords, Other Diatonic Seventh Chords

Virtual Office Hours

Just like in the spring, staff will have virtual office hours for you to stop in and ask any questions you might have. My office hours will be held on **Wednesday's** from **12:00-1:30pm.**

Class Participation

Due to the small size of the class, it will be extremely important for everyone to participate. Don't be afraid to ask questions if something is confusing. The more conversations we can have, the more you will understand the lesson.

Materials

Students will be expected to bring the following items to class with them every day. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of the daily participation grade.

- Pencil(s) (NO PENS!!!)
- Binder (This will house all of your notes, homework assignments, etc.)
- Text Book (Tonal Harmony)
- Notebook or lined paper
- Manuscript/Music Staff Paper (link provided on website)
- Homework or other assignments
- Chromebook (very important to have this every day!)

Grading Policy

The following is how the grades will break down for this class.

- Formative (Homework, quizzes, daily assignments)
 - 50% at end of 1st Quarter
 - 45% at end of 2nd Quarter
- Summative (Tests, projects)
 - 50% at end of 1st Quarter
 - 45% at end of 2nd Quarter
- Final Exam (End of Semester)
 - 10%

Late Assignments

Any assignment turned in late and unexcused will be deducted 10% for each day that it is late. Make up quizzes and exams must be made up outside of class.

Classroom Expectations

1. Be on time for class.
2. Respect all students and teachers.
3. Come to class with all materials.
4. Only water allowed in the room. No Food.
5. No electronic devices, including cell phones.
6. Respect the classroom facilities

Resources

Google Classroom – We will use this on a regular basis to help facilitate classroom discussions, assignments, and a wide range of other activities.

Music First Software - We are going to be using a lot of the Music First software for homework assignments. This is where having chromebooks on a daily basis will allow you to complete those assignments in class, after the lecture is complete.

Website – There is a page on the Colby Band website that is dedicated to this class. Use it for extra help, listen to examples, print off staff paper, and other things. There are a multitude of other websites that are linked here to help you practice your music theory.