

Music Theory 1-2 Syllabus

Mrs. Amy Estep – Choral Music Director
aestep@gusd.net HooverChoir.net

Course Description

Welcome to Music Theory 1 at Herbert Hoover High School! This is an introductory course is for students who wish to gain a better understanding of music and how music works. Although a “theory” course, students will have several opportunities to engage creatively throughout the semester through composition, group performance, etc.

Participation

Music theory is a course that deals extensively with ear training. As a result, students will be expected to sing almost everyday in class. I will not force a student to sing alone, but actively singing as a class or in small groups is mandatory in order to be successful. Participating in daily class activities is crucial.

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.

- Pencils (At least two, and NEVER PEN)
- Manuscript/Music Staff Paper (provided by me; can be downloaded at blanksheetmusic.net)
- Homework or other assignments
- Websites/Apps for assignments:
 - <https://gusd.musicfirstclassroom.com/login> (or MusicFirst App on phone)
 - <https://flipgrid.com/hooverchoir> (or Flipgrid App)
 - <https://classroom.google.com> (or Google Classroom App)
 - Remind App for phone for text communication (or visit <https://www.remind.com>)

Course Topics

The following topics will be covered in this course.

Quarter 1 (August-October)

1. Music Fundamentals
 - Notation, rhythms, accidentals
2. Scales, Tonality, and Keys
 - Diatonic major/minor scales, intervals, moveable “do”, ear training

Quarter 2 (October-December)

3. Chords
 - Diatonic major/minor harmony, chord function, chord quality, cadences, analysis, composition, ear training
4. Melody
 - Melodic organization, ear training, nonharmonic tones, composition, analysis

Quarter 3 (January-March)

5. Musical Texture
 - Texture types, harmonic rhythm, visual and aural recognition, analysis
6. Two-Part Writing
 - Melody and accompaniment, basic counterpoint, motion

Quarter 4 (March-June)

7. 7th chords
 - Diatonic major/minor 7th chords, composition, ear training
8. Modulation
 - Closely related keys, modal interchange, types of modulation, secondary harmony, tonicization

Grading

Students are graded with Standards-Based Grading scheme with a 4-point scale to help them understand what level of mastery they have achieved, which will be converted to a letter grade at the end of each quarter (see scale conversion below). Throughout the semester, students will receive grades in a variety of areas.

- Participation & Homework	Advanced: 4 pts (A, 75—100%)
- Projects	Mastery: 3 pts (B, 62.5—74%)
- Quizzes	Above Average: 2 pts (C, 50—62.4%)
- Exams	Exploring: 1 pts (D, 25—50%)
	No Effort: 0 pts (F, 0-24%)


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. It is the student's responsibility to discuss make up work with the teacher as soon as the student returns to class (or prior to missing class, if the absence is expected)

Expectations of Classroom

1. Be on time for class
2. Respect all students and teachers.
3. Come to class with all materials.
4. Only water in closed container allowed in the classroom. No other food/drinks.
5. No cell phones, mp3 players, or other electronic devices allowed unless told.
6. Respect the classroom facilities.
7. Have fun!

Resources

Please visit gusd.musicfirstclassroom.com/login to review the software we use and to find help if you need it. The Support  button at the top of the page offers a User Guide and Tutorials to assist you with completing tasks.

Thank you for reading this information. A vital element of the success of your student is the ability to communicate effectively. Students must do their part and be responsible for information that should be communicated with their families. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the contact information listed at the top of this page. I look forward to a great year!

~ Mrs. Estep