

# Syllabus: AP Music Theory

## SCAPA/Lafayette

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**Web:** <http://www.lafayettechoir.org/aptheory>

**Office Hours:** 1:15-3:30 daily (usually later too)

### **Student assistance/ parent contact policy:**

Please communicate with me about any concerns, difficulties you are having with music theory. If given a day's notice or so, I can usually arrange for a before or after school meeting. I can also meet during 4<sup>th</sup> lunch and 4<sup>th</sup> block. Please do not let a situation go too long without consulting the teacher. I can and WILL always help.

Parents: Please take an active role in your student's coursework by asking about homework, checking grades regularly, and contacting the teacher if necessary.

### **Introduction:**

This course will begin with a review of written theory concepts presented in Musicianship I and II. Upon completion of this course, the expectation is that all students will take the AP Music Theory Exam. This is a benchmark exam for High School Music Theory knowledge. This test is used in determining if you might be eligible to test out of basic theory at the college level as a music major. (A score of 4 or 5 is usually required to do so). As an Advanced Placement Course, this class carries a weighted grade at Lafayette High School and as such will require as much or more effort as any other weighted class at LHS. As a SCAPA Music student, taking AP Theory, you have been given a strong foundation in music theory - this is a year to concentrate and refine the skills and knowledge toward becoming a musician with a strong foundation in music theory.

**Text: Textbook:** Tonal Harmony, Fifth Edition – Stefan Kostka, Dorothy Payne

**Workbook:** Workbook for Tonal Harmony

**Workbook Fee:** There is a \$35.00 fee for AP Music Theory. This covers the cost of your workbook.

### **Grading:**

Notebook	5%
Homework, Projects	25%
Aural Skills	25%
In-Class work/ participation	10%
Quizzes/Tests	25%
Semester Final Exam	10%

**Notebook:**

Keep a detailed, organized Notebook. **This is a part of your grade.** The notebook should include sections as follows: Class Notes/Handouts, Returned Quizzes/Tests, Written Assignments, Listening/Dictation, and Misc. The notes you take in class and handouts will be your review sheets and reference for tests. These will be valuable reference materials. Keep them in your notebook.

**Homework:**

Homework/ practice work is essential to understanding and mastering music theory. There WILL be homework assignments most every day. Some days homework will be collected for completion, other days it may be graded for correctness. Some students may get behind in homework assignments and do detriment to their grade. Be diligent in keeping up with assignments.

**Absences:**

It is crucial that you attend class every day. There is a lot of material to cover and much to prepare for the exam. It is YOUR responsibility to keep track of assignments and get make up assignments you have missed. For each day of class that you miss, you have that many class days to make up assignments when you return. (For instance, if you miss one day, you have one class day to get/make up assignments, and the assignment is due at the BEGINNING of the next class period. No exceptions!!)

**Topics to be covered:**

The primary focus of the course will focus on preparing students for the AP Exam. This includes practice exams and exam preparation. Topics to be addressed will include: Elements of Pitch, Major and Minor Scales, Intervals, Elements of Rhythm, Beat and Tempo, Meter, Time Signatures, Triads and Seventh Chords, Chord Inversions, Diatonic chords in Major and Minor Keys, Principals of Voice Leading, Melodic Line, Rood Position Part Writing, Instrumental Ranges and Transposition, Harmonic Progressions, Sequences, Circle of Fifths, Modes, Triads in First and Second Inversions, Cadences, Phrases, Periods, Non-Chord Tones, Figured Bass Appoggiaturas, Five/Seven Chords, Secondary Dominant Chords, Chromaticism, Modulations, Altered Chords, Binary and Ternary Form.

**Aural Theory:**

Specific emphasis will be placed on harmonic, rhythmic and melodic dictation; sight-singing; intervallic relationships and recognition; error detection; chord progressions and identification.

**Keyboard Skills:**

Emphasis will be placed on performance of original compositions; demonstration of ability to play scales, intervals, examples of four-part harmony, simple melodies over chordal or arpeggiated bass lines.

**Literacy Component:**

All students will complete one **performance review** (in portfolio-ready format) per 6 weeks. All 6-week exams will contain open response questions related to content. All students will complete one research paper per semester. All students will maintain a personal reflections journal. All students will write process papers in the area of form and analysis.

**Review:**

SCAPA Music theory students should have covered the following during their previous three years of music theory having a working knowledge of: Clefs, basic notation, Scales, Key Signatures, Intervals, Triads, Rhythm, Four-Part Vocal writing, NCT's, Seventh Chords, Secondary Dominants, Diminished Seventh Chords, and Augmented Sixth Chords.

**Internet Requirement:**

Several assignments will be made requiring internet access (also headphones/speakers will be necessary). The music theory classroom has 4 workstations available to students after class hours. If internet access is not available at home for any reason, the classroom computers may be used (OUTSIDE OF CLASS TIME). It is the student's responsibility to plan their schedule accordingly and make arrangements to use the classroom workstations outside of theory class.

**Other Suggested Materials:**Notation Software:

Finale Notepad – free download from: <http://www.finalemusic.com/notepad/>

Or any other notation Software that you prefer.

Finale Workbook: This software is included with the purchase of your workbook.

This software will allow you to complete workbook assignments on the computer to email or print and turn in for credit.

Ear Training Software:

Search [www.harmonycentral.com](http://www.harmonycentral.com) for “Ear Training Software”

Online Resources: [www.sightsing.com](http://www.sightsing.com)  
[www.good-ear.com](http://www.good-ear.com)  
[www.metronome.com](http://www.metronome.com)

Staff Paper:

We will usually try to provide staff paper in class, keep several sheets with you in your notebook, as well, it can be downloaded from the LHS Chorus Website:

[www.lafayettechoir.org/staffpaper.pdf](http://www.lafayettechoir.org/staffpaper.pdf)