

**DEERFIELD HIGH SCHOOL
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

**MUSIC THEORY 2018-2019
DR. BRAME**

This course is designed to provide a well-rounded background in the fundamentals of music. You will gain skills in three major areas: theory, history, and composition. We will discuss the basic building blocks of music and listen to the masterworks of the past and present to show you the paths others have taken. Then you will take what you've learned to find your own personal voice as a composer.

COURSE SUMMARY

Theory	History/Literature	Composition
Notation	Elements of music	Use of computer workstation
Circle of 5ths	Forms of music	Free composition
Intervals	Western classical	Composing from a pre-existing melody
Triads	Music of India, Africa, China, and Native America	Four-part chorale
Scales	American pop music	Composing with seventh chords and modulations
Inversions	(blues, jazz, country, rock)	
Cadences		
Harmonization		
Non-harmonic tones		
Seventh Chords		
Modulation		

As we learn about the elements, forms and eras of Western classical music, we will study a number of pieces in depth. These will include compositions by Machaut, Josquin, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Debussy, Schoenberg, Stravinsky, and Britten. More details can be found on the Music Theory areas of the DHS Band website:

<http://www.deerfieldband.net>

Or, just go to the DHS website and find it from the Fine Arts Department page.

GRADING AND CLASS POLICIES

Your grade will be based on:

- Worksheets (20 points each, roughly 12 per quarter and 40% of the grade)
- Quizzes (20-50 points each, roughly 3 per quarter and 10% of the grade)
- Tests and compositions (100 points each, roughly 3 per quarter and 50% of the grade)

There is no semester final for this class.

Our class sessions will include lecture, demonstration, independent work, discussion and performance. Typical assignments will include worksheets, computer work, readings, short

papers, listening, and compositions. Quizzes will be given regularly. Tests will be given at the conclusion of units. Once or twice each quarter, a free composition will be assigned. The object will be to compose an original piece of music within specific guidelines. We will occasionally work in the Mac Lab in P104. The software we will use will include GarageBand for music recording and production and NoteFlight for music notation.

Every assignment will have a specific due date. There is no penalty for turning in late work. However, you need to get in the habit of doing your worksheets on time. If you do, I will grade them overnight so that you receive feedback the following day when we continue the topic. Getting behind in your daily work makes it difficult to keep up with the material. If you turn in compositions late, we probably will not be able to listen to it in class, and you will not get feedback from your peers. Larger projects and tests will be graded and returned within a week or so. Please use pencil on all theory worksheets.

All worksheets and compositions, as well as most quizzes and tests, may be resubmitted for a higher grade. I want your grade to show what you learned overall, not just what you knew on a given day. However, some of the large history tests cannot be retaken because of the nature of the material.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You need to bring the following to class each day: your Chromebook, a pencil, loose leaf paper or a spiral, manuscript (music) paper, and a folder or three-ring binder. You can get manuscript paper at local music stores or print some out from the internet. You might also want to have a pair of earbuds if you prefer them over headphones. There is no textbook for this class.

You will also find it helpful to establish a free Spotify account (www.spotify.com). This is a music streaming service with over 20 million tracks available for you to listen to. There is a DHS Music Theory playlist with most of the pieces we'll be studying this year.

CONTACTING DR. BRAME

My office is R107B. I will be happy to make an appointment to meet you outside of class. My email is dbrame@dist113.org, and my phone number is 224-632-3165. I will do my best to return all emails and phone calls within 24 hours.

