Conducting and Ear Training Syllabus

Course structure

This class will continue with the musical skills that you developed in Keyboard, AP, and Advanced Music Theory. In Conducting, you will learn how to prep a score, and how to conduct others at a very high level. There will be a significant amount of work at the keyboard, and the course will culminate in a session with one of the large BCA ensembles (Orchestra, Band, or Choir).

Grading

This course will be graded on a weighted-point system. Every assignment will be given the following weights:

ITEM	GRADE WEIGHT
Extra Credit Assignments	x1
Small written responses	x2
Prepared sight-singing or keyboard activities	x5
Prepared conducting activities	x5
Project	x8
Tests	x10
*Participation**	X5
Final project	x15 (7.5x each)

* There will be plenty of challenging activities. You earn these points by being engaged in class, and open to trying new things on days when the activities are hard!

Make-ups

If you are unsatisfied with your work on an Ear Training Day, you may choose to make it up. You will have four chances to make up ear training/score reading work during the trimester. There is **no penalty for doing so**, and your higher grade will supplant the lower grade (no averaging). In order to enact this, you must announce that you would like to use a make-up on the same day as the original assessment is given.

Missing Class

If you have to miss class on an Ear Training Day for any reason, than you must tell me before class (email is fine), and the work must either be made up *on that same day* or on the *very next day of school*. (If there are exceptional circumstances that make this impossible, exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis.)

Regarding the Difficulty of the Material…

Though you have all completed AP Music Theory, everyone comes with different backgrounds. The ear-training exercises that form this course may seem harder than AP Music Theory. That is not an accident!

AP Music Theory covers the standard first-year curriculum that you would find at any college or university. This course introduces you to the beginning of the next level of ear training. As is traditional, these activities are different from the activities that you have done before, and it is a normal to feel a bit like a fish out of water when you first try them. However, they really are the very next sort of items for study, and I will absolutely be grading you with an eye towards where you are with this material. *I am not expecting every dictation and keyboard assignment to be note-perfect.* Your effort is what counts here. I am aware that, although this is the next step, these ear training activities are genuinely new for you. Approach them as games, and you will do very well.

...and fairness:

The great benefit of school is that everyone can learn. Some of you have the benefit of more keyboard experience, or perfect pitch, or you are better able to handle multiple clefs. On the other hand, some of you struggled to even keep up with ear training in AP Music Theory. In order to make sure that everyone learns, exercises can be modified. If you are finding the exercises too difficult, even after putting in 20 focused minutes every day (as I suggested), come speak to me, and we can modify your exercises together. **You will NEVER be penalized for this.** All I ask is that you are make an honest self-assessment, and we can have a discussion about pulling you back to material that will challenge you from wherever you are.

By the same token, if this material provides you with very little challenge, then we must also make modifications. The course is not meant to be challenging, *but not overwhelming.*

The Big Time Saver

It's easy to say that the trick to thriving with these kinds of exercises is practice. But the truth is slightly more complicated: the trick to surviving these exercises is to practice *every day*. The early days (such as the day that the ear training/score reading activity is assigned) actually matter quite a lot more than the later days, and you will find that starting early gives you two major benefits: (1) you will ultimately practice **far less time** than if you start later, and (2) you will **perform much better** on your assigned activities.

Feedback

I always appreciate direct feedback on my courses. I really mean this! Please come and talk to me privately or send me an email. I want this course to be the very best course that it can be **for you**. I don't promise that changes will take place, but I often change course policies after such discussions.