

# Course Outline: Senior Music Seminar

Senior Music Seminar has 2 units: First, it is a hands-on, “maker” style course where students construct an authentic musical instrument such as a Telecaster style guitar and mini amplifier. All facets in the construction process are included. Safe use of materials and tools are emphasized as students utilize planning strategies and incorporate interdisciplinary topics such as electronics. The experience culminates with an evaluation. Students take their completed projects home. In the second unit, seniors plan their AVPA-Music Senior Recital. The recital is a graduation requirement for the program and is adjudicated by professional musicians. The course is required for all students in AVPA-Music (12<sup>th</sup> grade) and is not open to other students. Safe use of materials and tools are demonstrated and practiced before starting each step including eye protection, handling of tools and materials, long hair/ties/lanyards... and washing hands at the end of class. Prerequisite: completion of an in-class “Safety Test” with a score of 100%.

## Course Goals and Objectives

The main goal of this course is to construct a working musical instrument and mini amplifier. Within this main goal are several sub-goals. They include: safety, planning, time management, function of components, design aesthetics, finishing techniques, woodworking, soldering, electronics, etc. It is suggested that students wear protective or older clothing during class, as they will work with wood, glue, paint, solder, etc. No students are allowed to use power tools. Students track and organize their progress by completing a journal. The second component of this course has seniors take a leadership role in planning their Senior Recital and create the concert program, plan the reception, stage management, and publicity.

## Grading, Assessment and Course Responsibilities

Grades are based on the average of all class sessions. Points are awarded based on assessment for *preparation, participation, assessment, attendance* and *team work*- because they foster responsible adult practices.

A = 93 -100	A- = 90 – 92	B+ = 87 - 89	B = 83 - 86	B- = 80 - 82	C+ = 77 - 79	C = 73 - 76
C- = 70 - 72	D+ = 63 - 69	D = 60 - 62	F = 0 - 59			

**Preparation and Participation (approx. 80%):** Students may earn 4 points each class session: 2 points for being present with all materials and/or prep-work from the previous session (Preparation), and 2 points for actively engaging in current tasks/objectives as planned (Participation). Students who are not in class do not receive any points. However, *excused absences* can be made-up within one week by making an appointment to complete any missed tasks/objectives. Unprepared grades cannot be made up. Absences during the last week of the trimester must be made up within one school day after the trimester ends.

**TRIMESTER 1 Assessment (approx. 20%):** Students have weekly homework (a 15-minute task completed during school hours) and earn 2 points for completing their homework before the week’s end. There is no makeup for the homework requirement, unless there is an extended absence.

**TRIMESTER 2 Assessments (approx. 20%):** *Project Assessment in January* (10 points)- includes a test and completed rubric for the completed project. *Recital Assessment in March* (10 points)- completed by BCTS Advisory Board members (professionals in the music industry). The recital is also part of the NJDOE required Exit Assessment and is a graduation requirement for the AVPA-Music Program.

**Attendance:** Being proactive about attendance is essential to personal accountability and musical progress. Therefore, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any missed sessions and initiate a make-up, as described above. Lateness is not excused unless accompanied by a teacher’s note. Otherwise, students will have 1 point deducted from their session grade every 3 minutes. Cutting class has a negative impact on everyone and is not tolerated. Students who cut class or have an unexcused absence lose full credit for that session and their “good standing” status for the academic year, which makes them ineligible for the music honor society, honors ensemble participation, and possibly the privilege to participate in future music electives and activities.

*Consistent attendance is crucial to keeping up with the coursework and overall academic success. Frequent absences (over 10%) can impact your academic performance in this course. Students who exceed 10% of absences will remain in the course. However, the student will receive a grade of “Incomplete” until credit recovery is completed in the summer.*

**Team Work:** Students are expected to cooperate with each other and maintain a positive attitude- especially in areas concerning *safety, trust, and mutual respect*.