

Perth Amboy High School
Music Appreciation
Grades 9-12

Course Syllabus

Teacher Contact: CassMuratore@paps.net

Course Description

Music Appreciation introduces students to the fundamentals of music through a comprehensive study of music history, theory, and practical application. The course is designed for students to engage directly with musical concepts through hands-on keyboarding, composition, and performance. Students will explore a wide range of musical genres and periods, from early music to contemporary styles, while developing their aural skills, music literacy, and creative expression.

Course Materials

All materials will be provided by the instructor.

Course Requirements

1. **Arrive on time:** In accordance with school policy, a late occurs after the bell.
2. **Respect the music, the space, and each other**
3. **Participate fully:** Students are expected to be actively engaged and give their best effort every day.
4. **Listen to and encourage each other:** Contribute with a positive attitude and good behavior.
5. **Be open minded**

Google Classroom & Remind

Any form of communication on assignments and upcoming events to students will be in the form of Google classroom updates and the use of the Remind App. Codes will be given on the student's first day of class.

Grading Policy

QUIZZES & TESTS (60%) - Quizzes and Tests are in the form of a few elements that include but not limited to listening logs, compositions, and end of unit tests.

CLASSWORK (35%) – Much of the classwork grade will come from participation in daily activities. Great participation implies that a student demonstrates a positive attitude, a willingness to follow instruction and assist others, and be a responsible member of the class.

HOMEWORK (5%) - The Instructor will, from time to time, assign outside work such as practicing, listening, online exercises, etc.

Scope & Sequence

- **Unit 1: The Building Blocks of Music** - Introduction to foundational music theory, including rhythm, grand staff and an introduction to the piano.
- **Unit 2: The Baroque Period (c. 1600-1750)** - Exploration of Baroque music, composers, and keyboard techniques.
- **Unit 3: The Classical Period (c. 1750-1820) & The Romantic Period (c. 1820-1900)** - Focus on the Classical style, form, and prominent composers like Mozart and Beethoven. Also, emotional expression and programmatic music in the Romantic era.
- **Unit 4: Keyboard Skills and Technical Proficiency** - Intensive practice on keyboarding techniques, scales, chords, and arpeggios.
- **Unit 5: Music in Movies** - Exploration of how music sets the tone in movie scenes, including foley artists and sound effects.
- **Unit 6: 20th and 21st Century Music** - Examination of modern musical styles, including impressionism, atonality, and minimalism.
- **Unit 7: Music of the Americas** - An exploration of jazz, blues, rock and roll, and other American musical traditions.
- **Unit 8: World Music** - Survey of diverse musical cultures from around the globe.
- **Unit 9: Composition and Arrangement** - Application of music theory to create original compositions and arrangements.
- **Unit 10: Final Performance and Portfolio** - A culminating project where students perform a piece and present a portfolio of their work.