

SYLLABUS: MUT 4401 Counterpoint 1

Class Information

Meeting time and location: M/W/F, 9:35-10:25 in Music Building room 142

Instructor: Dr. Michael Polo, 308 MUB

Phone: 352-273-3180

E-mail: prichards@arts.ufl.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Required Texts: Schubert, Peter. *Modal Counterpoint, Renaissance Style*.
New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 019533194X

Bach, Johann Sebastian. *Two-Part Inventions*, Alfred Masterwork Edition.
New York: Alfred, 2006. ISBN: 0739007599

Required Materials: staff paper, pencil, eraser

Prerequisite: a passing grade of C in MUT 2126 Theory of Music 3

Course Description

For hundreds of years, the study of counterpoint has been considered an essential component in the education of a serious student of Western classical music, the distinguishing feature of which is its accommodation of multiple strains of complimentary musical discourse simultaneously. If the study of harmony in previous theory coursework introduces the individual components, or words if you will, of our musical language, then counterpoint addresses its syntax and grammar, and the study of contrapuntal techniques is therefore an integral part of speaking Western music with advanced fluency. This course covers two-voice counterpoint as practiced in the 16th and 18th centuries, roughly using the work of Palestrina and Bach as models. Through analysis, readings, performance, listening, and, above all, guided composition, we will explore the stylistic features and polyphonic practices of these eras, toward the larger goal of understanding the role and function of counterpoint in musics of all periods and styles.

Course Requirements

Students will complete all reading, listening, and composition assignments on time (approximately one written assignment to be turned in per week). Late work will be accepted for half-credit up to one week after the original due date. I may occasionally ask that you correct an assignment and resubmit it in a timely manner. In addition to regular homework, there will be four quizzes, two composition projects, and mid-term and final examinations.

Attendance

Required. More than three absences will result in the lowering of course grade by one increment for each additional absence.

Grading

The final grading formula for the class is as follows (tentative and subject to change):

Homework	= 50%
2 Composition Projects	= 20%
Midterm Exam	= 15%
Take-Home Final Exam	= 15%

and

	E < 60		
D- = 60-62	D = 63-66	D+ = 67-69	
C- = 70-72	C = 73-76	C+ = 77-79	
B- = 80-82	B = 83-86	B+ = 87-89	
A- = 90-92	A = 93-100		

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to this instructor when requesting accommodation. Please do this at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Honesty

All students are reminded of the university's honesty policy regarding cheating and use of software. Upon completing the registration for the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”

Course Schedule (tentative and subject to change)

- Week 1 Introduction, Syllabus, Modes
Intro and Chapter 1: Modes and Notation
- Week 2 Chapter 2: Melody and Cantus Firmus
QUIZ ON MODES, NOTATION, MELODY
Chapter 3: First Species
- Week 3 Chapter 3: First Species
Chapter 4: Second Species
- Week 4 Chapter 4: Second Species
QUIZ ON FIRST AND SECOND SPECIES
Chapter 5: Third Species
- Week 5 Chapter 5: Third Species
Chapter 6: Fourth Species
- Week 6 Chapter 6: Fourth Species
- Week 7 QUIZ ON THIRD AND FOURTH SPECIES
Begin Composition Project 1
- Week 8 Chapter 7: Mixed Values
- Week 9 MIDTERM EXAMINATION
Chapter 8-9: Motives and Variation
- Week 10 Chapter 8-9: Motives and Variation
COMPOSITION PROJECT 1 DUE
- Week 11 Chapter 13: Invertible Counterpoint
- Week 12 Tonality
QUIZ ON INVERTIBLE COUNTERPOINT & TONALITY
- Week 13 Canon
- Week 14 Harmonic Planning
- Week 15 COMPOSITION PROJECT 2 and FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE
- Week 16 Performances