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. Paul Richards, 308 MUB
Phone: 352-273-3180
E-mail: prichards@arts.ufl.edu
Office Hours: M5, F4


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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Composition Projects</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-Home Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 |