University of Florida, Fall 2019

SYLLABUS: MUT 4401 Counterpoint 1

Class Information

Meeting time and location: M/W/F, 9:35-10:25 in Music Building room 144
Instructor: Dr. Paul Richards, 308 MUB
Phone: 352-273-3180
E-mail: prichards@arts.ufl.edu
Office Hours: M5 and by appointment


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 will frequently 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.”

Student course evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.
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