

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](mailto:prichards@arts.ufl.edu)

Office Hours: M5 and 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 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 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.bluer.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