



GEORGETOWN
COLLEGE

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Department of Music 311

Counterpoint (3 hours), Syllabus, Fall 2007

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: Strict (species) counterpoint approached in a contemporary manner after Heinrich Schenker with application to the composition of music. Also includes the study of harmonic counterpoint in the music of J. S. Bach.

TEXTBOOK: Kennan, Kent. Counterpoint, 3rd edition. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1987.

Kennan, Kent. Counterpoint, Workbook, 3rd edition. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1987.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: (1) To focus the student's awareness of the contrapuntal element present in virtually all music. (2) To provide analytical insights into the compositional practices of the masters of 18th-century contrapuntal writing. (3) Through this foundation, to provide the student with the capability to compose music in the aforementioned style, which will enhance compositional skills and one's understanding of musical structure in general.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE: (1) Four tests, (2) Workbook assignments, (3) Composition Project, (4) Final Examination, (5) Turn in assignments on time and legibly written

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week One--August 27-31

Chapter 2: single melodic line

Week Two--September 3-7 (**No Class** Monday, Sept. 3, MLK Jr. Day)

Chapter 3: principles of 2-voice counterpoint

Week Three--September 10-14

Chapter 4: 2-voice exercises--1:1, 2:1

Week Four--September 17-21

TEST ONE: Chapters 2-4

Chapter 5: chromaticism (2 voices)

Week Five--September 24-28

Chapter 6: 2-voice exercises continued

Week Six--October 1-5

Chapter 7: writing of 2-voice pieces

Week Seven--October 8-12

Chapter 8, canon

TEST TWO: Chapters 5-8

- Week Eight--October 15-19
 Chapter 9, invertible counterpoint
- Week Nine--October 22-26 (Fall Break, **No Class**, Mon., Oct. 22)
 Chapter 10: 2-part invention; motivic development
- Week Ten—October 29 - November 2
 Chapter 11: 3-voice counterpoint
- Week Eleven--November 5-9
TEST THREE: Chapters 9-11
 Chapters 12 & 13: 3-voice pieces: writing/imitation
- Week Twelve--November 12-16
 Chapter 15: fugue
- Week Thirteen--November 19-23 (Thanksgiving week, **No Class**, Fri., Nov. 23)
 Chapter 16: fugue continued
- Week Fourteen--November 26-30
 Chapter 17: fugue concluded
- Week Fifteen--December 3-7
TEST FOUR: Chapters 13, 15-17
 Chapter 18: chorale forms
- Week Sixteen--December 10-12
 Chapter 19: contrapuntal variation forms
COMPOSITION PROJECT: last day of class
FINAL EXAMINATION: As scheduled by the Registrar's Office

EVALUATION: The final course grade will be computed as follows:

Four Tests = 60%

Workbook Assignments = 15%

Composition Project = 10%

Final Examination = 15%

Grading scale for the course is:

A=93-100 A/B=88-92 B=83-87 B/C=78-82 C=70-77 D=60-69 F=0-59

Assignments: The grading system for assignments will be:

1 = Excellent, 2 = Satisfactory, 3 = Unsatisfactory, 4 = Incomplete

These numbers will be averaged and then applied to the following scale:

1.00-1.04=100	1.4 = 90	1.9 = 80	2.4 = 70	2.9 = 60
1.05-1.09= 98	1.5 = 88	2.0 = 78	2.5 = 68	3.0 = 58
1.1 = 96	1.6 = 86	2.1 = 76	2.6 = 66	4.0 = 0
1.2 = 94	1.7 = 84	2.2 = 74	2.7 = 64	
1.3 = 92	1.8 = 82	2.3 = 72	2.8 = 62	

Example: 2,2,1,1,2,3,3,2,1 = $17 \div 9 = 1.8 = 82\%$

Late Work: Assignments must be turned in on time or they will be lowered one rating from what would have been received (e.g., from 1 to 2, 2 to 3, etc.). Assignments must be turned in within one week of the due date, or they will not be accepted.

ATTENDANCE: In that we will have 45 class meetings, you will be allowed four absences (10% of total class meetings) without penalty. For each additional absence, regardless of the reason (*), your final grade point average will be lowered by three points.

- * If you are involved in a college-sponsored activity off campus, such as a field trip or tour, these absences will not count toward the four allowed absences, if arrangements are made with the professor in advance.
- * In the event of an extended illness, recognized as such by the college, individual arrangements should be made with the professor in regard to make-up work. (Please contact the Dean of Students to ensure that I am officially notified.)

Tardies: Four tardies will be counted as one of your allowed absences. If you arrive late, see me after class so that I may mark you late rather than absent.

PERSONAL NOTE

Please schedule an appointment with me, or call at any time (including my home number until 11:00 p.m.) if you have questions, or if I may be able to assist you in some capacity. Please do not hesitate!