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.


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
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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 ÷ 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!