



MUTH 5420/3420 18th-Century Counterpoint
Spring 2026 David Schwarz Instructor david.schwarz@unt.edu
Office MU 104 hours: MW 1 to 2
|Class Room MU 321: MWF noon to 12:50 p.m.

Course Description

In this class we will study the art of 18th Century Music with an emphasis on the music of J. S. Bach. Our study will lead to composition and analysis; you will write short, graded compositional and analytical studies that embody the principles under discussion. You will also compose a final project—a two-part invention in the style of J. S. Bach. To study both dimensions of the course and its music, we shall work in detail through our text: Robert Gauldin's *A Practical Approach to Eighteenth Century Counterpoint*. See a complete list of assignments under "Modules."

Attendance Policy: each unexcused absence will lower your final grade one point. Absences are excused for all UNT COM activities, emergencies, illnesses, and circumstances beyond your control.

Policy on Generative AI

No use of Generative AI is allowed in the composition of your final projects (a two-part invention in the style of J. S. Bach) or analyses / daily composition exercises.

Communication Expectations

Please communicate with me via the Canvas email feature; I'll check email several times each teaching day (and often as well on days during the week when I don't teach); on the weekends I shall check email Sunday evenings after 6 p.m.

Course Structure

You will do short, written work for 34 of our classes. Work must be handed in produced in MUSESCORE at the beginning of class when due. I will accept late work for official UNT COM activities and for life events that require your attention.

Course Requirements

- Daily Assignments 34 @ 2 points each: 68%
- Final Composition 32 points: 32%

Grading Criteria for 2 point assignments; for Grading Criteria for your final project, see the assignment under “Modules”

- **A 2 points**
- Work that reflects a secure grasp of general principles of the assignment
- **B 1.8 points**
- Work that reflects a secure grasp of general principles of the assignment
- **C 1.6 points**

- Work flawed by major errors of general principles of the assignment
- **D 1.4 points**

Course Prerequisites

Completion of MUTH 2400 and MUTH 2410 with a grade of C or better In order to be successful in this course you must:

- Devote at least 3 hours of work to the course each day not counting our class meetings.
- Use a robust internet connection and computer to communicate with colleagues as well as study and upload assignments.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, you will have mastered the musical style of 18th Century music through daily analytical and compositional written work focusing on contrapuntal procedures in Bach's Two-Part Inventions. Our work (both analytical and compositional) will focus on

- the relationship between consonance and dissonance in 18th-Century music, both melodically and harmonically
- sequences (with an emphasis on marking beginning and ending delimiters; the technique of transposition; and (if broken) both where and the musical effect of, the "jumping off" point
- dominant and tonic complexes (understood as supported by simple, underlying prolongation by means of a single bass note (scale degree 5 for the dominant; scale degree 1 for the tonic) supporting more complex surface motions
- how key areas are established and how they relate to one another

Please note: do not schedule your end of semester jury against a regularly scheduled class.

Teaching Philosophy

I believe in making this course interesting, relevant, culturally sensitive to equity and diversity, and thorough in terms of teaching you professional level mastery of the techniques of music analysis. It is my responsibility to provide you with clear, concise, and competent materials for each day's work within each module; these include pdf scores (where appropriate), videos (that are single shots with no internal editing, perfect audio and visual assets, and captioning), audio and video assets of the relevant works, and perfectly clear written assignments that I will return via Canvas graded with comments within one week of submission.

It is your responsibility to do each day's work thoroughly, to communicate concerns that you have via the Canvas email feature, to participate actively in discussion boards, to submit assignments on time, to consider my written comments on papers, and to respond to them following the return of each written assignment.

Course Technology & Skills

To successfully engage with the materials of this course you will need:

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Access to music notation software Musescore

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You may ask a fellow member of class what they think about your work before you hand it in; that person must not write anything on your work but communicate their impressions aurally. Such consultations need not be disclosed. Any other assistance or taking material from a published

source constitutes plagiarism; if found and documented, I will initiate disciplinary action.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

See: [ODA](#)

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at:

<https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: [Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

See: [FERPA](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit: See: [Mental Health](#)

[Issues](#)

Link: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

STUDENT RESOURCES

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>