

# 16<sup>th</sup>-Century Counterpoint

Dr. Justin Lavacek

Fall 2015

MUTH 3410/5410

MWF 9-9:50am

Room 321

**Instructor:** Justin Lavacek, Ph.D.

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**Office:** MU 212

**Office Hours:** MW 11-12pm, or by appointment.

## Textbook

Schubert, Peter. *Modal Counterpoint, Renaissance Style*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Oxford UP, 2007.

## Course Goals

- competency in 16<sup>th</sup>-century sacred vocal polyphonic style, including:
  - critical analysis of musical parameters (melody, harmony, rhythm=counterpoint)
  - composing in the style
  - familiarity with contemporaneous theoretical writings and approaches

## Graded Work

- small bits of counterpoint against a cantus firmus
- counterpoint against a complete cantus firmus in each of the five species, following Fux
- a short texted two-voice motet (midterm)
- an imitative duo assignment
- a short presentation with handout on a theoretical topic from Zarlino
- a final paper analyzing the novelties of the *seconda pratica* (early Baroque) from the perspective of the High Renaissance (*prima pratica*), following Artusi

**Homeworks** (worth **25 pts** each) are taken from the textbook. I strongly recommend doing all of the indicated exercises, only copying over onto staff paper the best one you would like me to grade. The more composition you do, the more deeply you'll understand and internalize the material, rather than having merely a textbook knowledge of rules.

**Compositions** (worth **25 pts** each) will be relatively short exercises to demonstrate your knowledge of the stages of counterpoint. You are encouraged to always *sing* your writing (we'll sing some of them in class), as the keyboard can homogenize distinct lines.

The **midterm project** (worth **50 pts**) will be a short two-voice texted motet, as the culmination of studying the various stages of counterpoint, as demonstrated in your five prior compositions.

The **Zarlino project** (worth **20 pts**) will be a short presentation (with handout) you will make to the class summarizing a specific theoretical subject dealt with by this preeminent 16<sup>th</sup>-century theorist.

The **final project** (worth **50 pts**) will be a short paper criticizing the “second practice” (early Baroque) from the perspective of the “first” (High Renaissance), the style studied in this course.

A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, F: less than 60%

The penalty for late work is 10% per class day.

### **Blackboard Learn**

I'll post some class notes, announcements, homeworks, and grades on Blackboard. You can find the course website at <https://learn.unt.edu/>.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term “cheating” includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

LINK: <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

LINK: Student Code of Conduct - <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT**

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

### **ADA STATEMENT**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation.

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

### **Fall Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)**

<http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=15&navoid=1228>

### **Final Exam Schedule**

<http://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

### **Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

#### Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

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

#### Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

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

### **RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

Link: [essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html](http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html)