

16th-Century Counterpoint

Dr. Justin Lavacek

Fall 2013

MUTH 3410/5410
Section 001 or 002
Room 290

MWF 11-11:50am or TR 9:30-10:50am

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Office Phone: (940) 565-3763 (prefer email)

Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12pm, Friday 12-1pm, or by appointment. Please come!

Textbook

Schubert, Peter. *Modal Counterpoint, Renaissance Style*. 2nd edition. Oxford UP, 2007.

Course Goals

- competency in 16th-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 **50 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 **100 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 **50 pts**) will be a short presentation (with handout) you will make to the class summarizing a specific theoretical subject dealt with by this preeminent 16th-century theorist.

The **final project** (worth **100 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, and grades on Blackboard. You can find the course website at <https://learn.unt.edu/>.

Collaboration and plagiarism

You are encouraged to discuss general coursework issues with friends. You may not copy another student's assignment or work collaboratively to complete an assignment. As a general guideline, feel free to collaborate *before* you start writing. Once your pencil touches paper, all work must be your own. Beethoven is watching you.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of “F” in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>.

Student Behavior in the Classroom

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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities 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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: www.unt.edu/csrr.

Incompletes and Withdrawals

A grade of Incomplete (I) is reserved for extraordinary circumstances (e.g. a serious illness or death in the family at or near the end of the semester). Please contact me as soon as possible if a problem arises. An automatic grade of W is possible through Tuesday Oct. 8, 2013. After this, WF (withdraw failing) is recorded.

Office of Disability Accommodation

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 website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Financial Aid 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.

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. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for 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 before doing so.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (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. 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.

Electronic Devices

Those from the sixteenth century may be used at any time.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at www.my.unt.edu. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

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. Coursework completed via the Blackboard on-line system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment. 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 F.E.R.P.A. (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link:

Student Evaluation of Teaching (SETE)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation of this course. The Student Evaluation of Teaching (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Available: .