

**Fall 2023**  
**MUTH 3420-2/5420-2**  
**18th-Century Counterpoint**  
**MWF 10-1050**  
**Music Bldg., Rm. 290**

Instructor Stephen Slottow

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Office hours MWF 12-1. or by appointment. In-person and zoom (<https://unt.zoom.us/j/7352956938>). Other times by appointment. If possible, contact me beforehand if you plan to drop by. For Zoom, alert me by email.

Materials Required:  
-J.S. Bach, *The Well-Tempered Clavier*, Books 1 and II. The Dover edition is good, inexpensive, and contains both books in a single volume. Henle and Barenreiter are better editions, but much more expensive and in two separate volumes. Generally, any edition will do for the class.  
  
-Kent Kennan, *Counterpoint*, 4th edition only. Text and workbook. Unfortunately, both are out of print. Please try to obtain PDF or used hard copies. For the time being, I will post scans of the sections we will use on the Canvas website.  
  
-In addition, we will be using materials from many different books and sources. These will either be handed out in class or uploaded to the Canvas module "18th-c. cpt. files", or both.

Course description and objectives

The course studies Baroque contrapuntal technique (mid-17th to mid-18th centuries), focusing on J.S. Bach, but also touching in varying degrees on other composers such as Handel, Lully, Couperin, and Rameau. The course includes some analysis, but mainly is a writing course. That is, the course is predominantly a composition course that explores the combination of contrapuntal melodic lines within a tonal framework in Baroque style.

The first part of the course focuses on (1) melody, (2) realizing a continuo (figured bass), (3) and setting a melody or unfigured bass in 2-3 voices. The second part of the course focuses on fugue—writing an exposition, episode, middle entry, and perhaps more, in the course of which we will concentrate on the subject, answer, links invertible counterpoint, sequences, and episodes (modulating and nonmodulating).

Class activities will include (1) going over reading, assignments, and new material; (2) studying compositions of Baroque composers; (3) in-class composition; (4) class critique of individual assignments.

Course description and objectives:

To review and solidify knowledge of and skill in tonal harmonic and contrapuntal norms; to learn to compose reasonably competently in Baroque style; and to gain a facility with invertible counterpoint and fugue.

Grading

Homework 80% (the two lowest HW grades are dropped)

Project 20%

Since grades will be largely based on the homework, it is crucial to keep up with it. There will be a lot of homework; it will be difficult to catch up if you fall behind.

Hearing:

## 👉!!HEAR WHAT YOU WRITE!!👈

It is of little use to put notes on paper without knowing how they sound. If you can accurately hear your counterpoints internally, well and good, but usually people can do this only imperfectly. Skill improves with practice. Try your best to hear internally, especially when you must write without reference to an instrument or voice (as in tests or small-group writing). Otherwise, always play your counterpoints before turning them in. Although music has a visual component, it is obviously primarily an aural art. So play it on the piano, play it back in Finale or Sibelius, listen to a CD, find it on YouTube, etc. Music has a visual component, but is obviously primarily an aural art. In addition, it is vital to immerse yourself in the sound of baroque music. Play it in the car, have it on in the background. As you hear more and more Baroque music, Baroque-ish music will start to float around in your head, and it will be easier to write.

Short written assignments will be due for almost every or every other day. Most of what we do will be writing counterpoint—as a class, in small groups, and individually in class and as homework. Student homework (unattributed) will sometimes be put on the board for group appraisal and critique. If it is, try to take a dispassionate view.

Assignment Protocols

Every assignment must (1) contain your name and the due date at the top of the page, and (2) be written or printed clearly and legibly. Scan or photograph your homework and submit in Canvas. Scans are best, but photos work if legible. There are various phone apps that convert a photo into a scan.

**If you photograph the assignment, do so from above, pointing the camera directly down, so the image doesn't slant towards the top. Common faults are to post photos that are too dark, have a shadow falling across them, are not centered, or are too small. If I can't read your HW, I can't grade or comment on it.**

My usual grading procedure is to mark up the HW directly in Canvas; or to print, mark up, rescan, and send back in Canvas. Please put all HW in PDF or JPEG format ONLY, or I probably won't be able to read it. I usually comment extensively on HW; I compile a numbered list of faults, comments, & suggestions. For instance: #3 might be "although labeled a PT, it's NOT a PT"; #19 might be "illegal 6/4 chord," etc. The comment keys change for each HW, but involve a lot of repetition, since people tend to make the same mistakes repeatedly. In general, if a student ignores my comments and simply repeats the same faults ad infinitum, I deduct more and more from the grade each time.

I do not use a metric for grading HW. Metrics don't work for counterpoint—there are too many contextual variables. I play through each assignment, comment on it in detail, and then assign what seems to me a fair grade.

Please submit homework via Canvas. Go to the assignment (in **Assignments**).

**Submission type** should already be set to **file upload**, which will allow you to upload a scan, photo (see comments above re format), or other file of your work. If that doesn't work, you can send me the file as an email attachment (stephen.slottow@unt.edu). Please do the latter only if the former is impossible, as it is much more cumbersome on my end. I will return the graded HW via Canvas—you should receive a notification. If for some reason I can't return it on Canvas, I'll do so via email or in class.

### Late work

Assignments are due at the class period on the assigned date. Late assignments will be graded down a full letter grade and accepted no later than two classes after the due date. Excuses for late homework will be considered only if you contact no later than two classes after the due date. Whether I accept your excuse is up to me. After that time period, no excuse will be considered unless you tell me why it was not possible to contact me before. However, if you do have an excuse for late homework, don't neglect to tell me what it is, on the assumption that I won't accept it. Leave that decision to me.

Unexcused: You are also allowed 4 unexcused absences. Every additional unexcused absence deducts 2 points from the final course grade (100 total). I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. If you arrive after I've taken attendance, **it's your responsibility to make sure you are marked as present before you leave the class room. otherwise, you'll be marked absent.** Keep track of your absences; if you're unsure, ask me. Equally, if you're unsure whether I marked you present, check with me on your way out of class, or soon afterwards. In cases of disputes, I go by my records. Unexcused absences (over 3) will be listed on Canvas (Grades).

If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the assigned homework and for knowing what was covered in class. Watch the video, or get the information from me or another class member. Generally the best way to contact me is through email (stephen.slottow@unt.edu).

### Absences:

Excused: Absences are excused for illness, natural disasters, transportation problems beyond your control, and official College of Music musical activities. For the latter, you are responsible for informing me—don't assume that I'll get an email with a list of excused students. Sometimes I do, sometimes I don't. If you feel that an absence for any other reason should be excused, discuss it with me; don't assume that I will or won't accept it: leave that decision to me. For all excused absences I must be informed at the latest by a week after the next class session.

Unexcused: You are also allowed 4 unexcused absences. Every additional unexcused absence deducts 2 points from the final course grade (100 total). I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. If you arrive after I've taken attendance, **it's your responsibility to make sure you are marked as present before you leave the class room. otherwise, you'll be marked absent.** Keep track of your absences; if you're unsure, ask me. Equally, if you're unsure whether I marked you present, check with me on your way out of class, or soon afterwards. In cases of disputes, I go by my records. Unexcused absences (over 3) will be listed on Canvas (Grades).

If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the assigned homework and for knowing what was covered in class. Watch the video, or get the information from me or another class member. Generally the best way to contact me is through email (stephen.slottow@unt.edu).

Return of student work

I will try to return student work by the next class or the class afterwards at the latest, if the work was turned in on time. Final projects will take longer.

Student email addresses

I will send all student email to the official UNT student addresses, which end with "unt.edu" or "myunt.edu" after the @ sign. If you habitually use a different email address (gmail, hotmail, yahoo, etc.), you need to also check your UNT address or set up automatic forwarding.

Juries:

Students may not schedule their end-of-semester juries against a regularly scheduled class or exam. If they do, I am under no obligation to reschedule their final exam.

Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices in class such as phones, tablets, and laptops is allowed if the student is using them as a legitimate component of class--for instance, to read virtual class materials, take notes, write counterpoint, or photograph the blackboard. Browsing the web or checking email or text messages is not a legitimate class use. When in doubt, I may check.

Plagiarism

Since the course grade is largely based on individual homework assignments, it is essential that those assignments represent your own work and not someone else's. Plagiarism will be dealt with in accordance with the policies set out at <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>. You may discuss general coursework issues with friends (e.g., ask a question about voice-leading procedures) but may not copy another student's assignment or work collaboratively to complete an assignment. As a general guideline, feel free to talk about the assignment before you start writing; but once you begin to write, all work must be your own. Occasionally I notice obvious instances of plagiarism, and then I have to do something about them.

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## 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 (Office of Academic Integrity), 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. See: Academic Integrity LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

## 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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. See: Student Code of Conduct Link: <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](https://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. See: Eagle Connect LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](https://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

## ODA 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 Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access. See: ODA LINK: [disability.unt.edu](https://disability.unt.edu). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)**

## DIVERSITY AND BELONGING

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities. See: Diversity and Inclusion Link: <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>

## 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>

Academic Calendar, Fall 2023 See: Fall 2023 Academic Calendar Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2023

See above

## 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 hours registered. 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 before doing so. See: Financial Aid 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. See: Financial Aid 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 Canvas 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. See: FERPA Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

## COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center's website for further information: 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>.

The counselor for music students is:

Myriam Reynolds

Chestnut Hall, Suite 311

(940) 565-2741 [Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu](mailto:Myriam.reynolds@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.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

## STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to: See: Student Resources Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)

## CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others. See: Care Team Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

## Class Schedule (subject to change)

### Fall 2023

#### August

##### Week 1

M 21 Course description. Polyphonic melody.

W 20 Polyphonic melody, melodic norms, embellishing tones review

F 23 Melodic norms, embellishing tones review, monophonic realization of figured bass

##### Week 2

M 28 Monophonic realization of figured bass

W 30 Fig. bass review, Handel lessons 5/3

#### September

F 1 Handel lessons 5/3

##### Week 3

M 4 Labor day. No class.

W 6 Handel lessons 6/3

F 8 Handel lessons 6/3

**Week 4**

M 11 6/4 review, Handel lesson 6/4

W 13 1st species, unfigured bass/treble melody (Gauldin, Kennan)

F 15 1st species, unfigured bass/treble melody (Gauldin, Kennan)

**Week 5**

M 18 1st species, unfigured bass/treble melody (Gauldin, Kennan)

W 20 2nd species, unfigured bass/treble melody (Gauldin, Kennan)

F 22 2nd species, unfigured bass/treble melody (Gauldin, Kennan)

**Week 6**

M 25 2nd species, unfigured bass/treble melody (Gauldin, Kennan)

W 27 3rd species, unfigured bass/treble melody (Gauldin, Kennan)

F 29 3rd species, unfigured bass/treble melody (Gauldin, Kennan)

**Week 7****October**

M 2 3rd species, unfigured bass/treble melody (Gauldin, Kennan)

W 4 3 voices

F 6 3 voices

**Week 8**

M 9 suspensions

W 11 suspensions

F 13 elaboration of 1:1 to 1:2, 1:3, 1:4

**Week 8**

M 9 elaboration of 1:1 to 1:2, 1:3, 1:4

W 11 fugue introduction

F 13 subject/answer, nonmodulating (semester midpoint?)

**Week 9**

M 16 subject/answer, nonmodulating

W 18 subject/answer, modulating

F 20 invertible counterpoint at 8ve, countersubject

**Week 10**

M 23 invertible counterpoint at 8ve, countersubject

W 25 invertible counterpoint at 8ve, countersubject

F 27 links, 3rd entry (complete exposition)

**Week 11**

M 30 links, 3rd entry (complete exposition)

**November**

W 1 links, 3rd entry (complete exposition)

F 3 sequences

**Week 12**

M 6 sequences

W 8 sequences, episode

F 10 sequences, episode

**Week 13**

M 13 exposition, episode, 2nd entry

W 15 exposition, episode, 2nd entry

F 17 exposition, episode, 2nd entry



**Week14**

M 20 Thanksgiving Break

W 22 Thanksgiving Break

F 24 Thanksgiving Break

**Week15**

M 27 Final project draft due (fugue exposition)  
exposition, episode, 2nd entry

W 29 exposition, episode, 2nd entry

**December**

F 1 exposition, episode, 2nd entry

**Week16**

M 4 Final project draft returned.

W 6 pre-final days. Handel partimento fugue.

Th 7 pre-final days. Handel partimento fugue.

F 8 reading day

**Final Exams**

S 9 no final exam.

M 11 Final project due.

T 12

W 13

Th 14

F 15

M 18 Grades due, 4pm