

# Counterpoint (MUSC 301)

## Course Syllabus

Vanguard University  
TR 4:20 – 5:35 PM  
[dr.reno@ascensionsounds.com](mailto:dr.reno@ascensionsounds.com)

Fall 2014  
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### Course Materials: Online

Counterpoint Supplementary Materials (**CSM**) are available at [counterpoint.ascensionsounds.com](http://counterpoint.ascensionsounds.com). This is a packet with music and exercises to be used in class. Students are required to download and print this packet before the second class period. Assignments if not in the workbook are posted on the website and also need to be downloaded and printed. If you have any problems downloading and/or printing materials, please contact me for assistance.

### Course Description

The study and writing of traditional contrapuntal forms in two, three and four parts, including two-part inventions, canon and fugues.

### Prerequisites

Two years of university-level music theory.

### Required Texts and Materials

- Kennan, Kent, *Counterpoint*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
- Kennan, Kent, *Counterpoint Workbook*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
- Manuscript paper and pencil.
- Counterpoint Supplementary Materials

### Course Objective

Students will...	Through...	Music Dept. SLO
Examine, define and memorize the contrapuntal processes and techniques of the 18 <sup>th</sup> -century, primarily in the style of J.S. Bach.	Lectures, score study, exercises, and assignments.	Music Literacy Critical Analysis
Recognize and differentiate various types of counterpoint in a variety of music, and thus gain an awareness and sensitivity to the contrapuntal process that permeates much music regardless of style.	Score study, analysis and listening activities.	Music Literacy Critical Analysis
Imitate and employ the contrapuntal processes and techniques of the 18 <sup>th</sup> -century while writing short pieces in various contrapuntal contexts.	Score study, analysis, listening activities, and writing exercises and assignments.	Music Literacy Critical Analysis

## Course Requirements and Policies

- You should plan on putting in a minimum of **six (6) hours per week outside of class** in order to complete the assignments and adequately develop your skills in counterpoint.
- **Regular and punctual attendance, and class participation** is expected, required and considered in the final grade. Coming to class without class materials (i.e., text, workbook, manuscript paper, pencil) is the same as an absence. **You are allowed two (2) absences** (excused or unexcused) without penalty. Each absence thereafter results in a “0” for your daily attendance/participation score. Please keep in mind that nine (6) absences result in an automatic “F” and withdrawal from the course (see the Vanguard University Catalog).

## Assignment Policy

**Assignments** must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date in order to receive full credit. Students will receive the following grade deductions for late assignments:

After the beginning of class ON THE DUE DATE: .....	<b>-10%</b>
One day AFTER THE DUE DATE: .....	<b>-50%</b>
More than one day AFTER THE DUE DATE: .....	<b>Zero</b>

## Evaluation

10 Assignments (Lowest grade of 11 assignments is dropped) .....	70%
Two-Voice Piece .....	10%
Final Project .....	10%
Attendance/Participation .....	10%

## Disability Statement 2014-2015

The Disability Services Office offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your professor(s), and the Disability Services Office (DSO). If you have not yet established services through the DSO but have a temporary or permanent disability that impacts your learning, attention, mental health, vision, hearing, physical health, or other disabilities that may require accommodations, you are welcome to contact the DSO, located in the Scott Academic Center, Office 244, 714-619-6843, [disabilityservices@vanguard.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@vanguard.edu).

Students with a documented learning disability who would like to request appropriate accommodations should contact Barbi Rouse, Director of Learning Skills, Scott Academic Center second floor, 714-619-6478, [barbi.rouse@vanguard.edu](mailto:barbi.rouse@vanguard.edu).

### Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Tue., Aug. 26	Introduction	<a href="#">Get Out of Your Music Box</a>	<a href="#">Comment online</a>
Thu., Aug. 28	Harmony Review	<a href="#">CSM</a> pp. 2-4 Harmonization Techniques	Harmony Q&A CSM Printed
Tue., Sept. 2	"		
Thu., Sept. 4	Chorale Analysis and Harmonization	Harmonization Techniques Review	
Tue., Sept. 9	"		
Thu., Sept. 11	Melody	Chapters 1, 2, <a href="#">Minor Scales: Bach in Action</a>	1. <a href="#">Chorale Analysis</a>
Tue., Sept. 16	Melody Analysis/ Two-Voice Counterpoint	Chapter 3	<a href="#">Comment online</a>
Thu., Sept. 18	Two-Voice 1:1	Chapter 4	2. <a href="#">Melody</a>
Tue., Sept. 23	"		
Thu., Sept. 25	Two-Voice 2:1		3. <a href="#">1:1</a>
Tue., Sept. 30	"		
Thu., Oct. 2	Two-Voice Chromaticism	Chapter 5	4. <a href="#">2:1</a>
Tue., Oct. 7	"		
Thu., Oct. 9	Two-Voice 3:1	Chapter 6	5. <a href="#">Chromaticism</a>
Tue., Oct. 14	Two-Voice 4:1		
Thu., Oct. 16	Two-Voice Pieces	Chapter 7	6. <a href="#">3:1 Bicinium</a>
Tue., Oct. 21	"		
Thu., Oct. 23	Canon	Chapter 8	
Tue., Oct. 28	"		<a href="#">Midterm Project Due: Two-Voice Piece</a>
Thu., Oct. 30	Invertible Counterpoint	Chapter 9	7. <a href="#">Canon</a>
Tue., Nov. 4	"		
Thu., Nov. 6	Two-Part Invention	Chapter 10	8. <a href="#">Invertible Cpt.</a>
Tue., Nov. 11	"		
Thu., Nov. 13	Three-Voice Counterpoint	Chapter 11	9. <a href="#">Two-Part Invention</a>
Tue., Nov. 18	Three-Voice Imitation	Chapter 13	10. <a href="#">Three Voice Cpt.</a>
Thu., Nov. 20	"		
Tue., Nov. 25	Fugue	Chapters 15-17	11. Imitation: Workbook pp. 57- 58
Tue., Dec. 2	"		
Thu., Dec. 4	"		
<b>Fri., Dec. 12</b>	<b><a href="#">Final Project</a> Due by 3:00 PM: Fugue Exposition</b>		