

Counterpoint (MUSC 301)

Course Syllabus

Vanguard University
TR 3:00 – 4:15 PM
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Fall 2011
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Course Materials: Online

Counterpoint Supplementary Materials are available at counterpoint.ascensionsounds.com. This is a 53-page 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*, 4th Edition
- Kennan, Kent, *Counterpoint Workbook*, 4th Edition
- Manuscript paper and pencil.
- Counterpoint Supplementary Materials

Course Objective

What you will learn...	You will learn it through...	Educational Target and Goal
Contrapuntal processes and techniques of the 18 th -century, primarily in the style of J.S. Bach.	Lectures, score study, exercises, and assignments.	Music Literacy and Critical Analysis
Awareness and sensitivity to the contrapuntal process that permeates much music regardless of style.	Score study, analysis and listening activities.	Music Literacy and Critical Analysis
To recognize different types of counterpoint while gaining experience in writing and analyzing short pieces in various contrapuntal contexts	Score study, analysis, listening activities, and writing exercises and assignments.	Music Literacy and 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:	-10%
One day AFTER THE DUE DATE:	-50%
More than one day AFTER THE DUE DATE:	Zero

Evaluation

Assignments	70%
Two-Voice Piece	10%
Final Project	10%
Attendance/Participation	10%

For students with documented medical or psychological disabilities, documented temporary illness that requires missing 1 week of classes, or documented chronic illness please contact Beth Lorange, the Coordinator of Disability Services, to request reasonable accommodations. The Coordinator of Disability Services is located in the Counseling Center on the second floor of the Scott Academic Center and can be reached at extension 5256 or by email at disabilityservices@vanguard.edu.

For students with a documented learning disability who would like to request appropriate accommodations, please contact Barbi Rouse, the Director of Learning Skills, located upstairs in Scott Academic Center at extension 2540 or by email at barbi.rouse@vanguard.edu.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	Thu., Aug. 25	Introduction	"Get Out of Your Music Box"	Comment online
2	Tue., Aug. 30	Chorale Analysis and Harmonization	Harmonization Techniques Review	Be prepared to discuss Harmonization Techniques
	Thu., Sept. 1	"		
3	Tue., Sept. 6	Melody	Chapters 1, 2, "Minor Scales: Bach in Action"	1. Chorale Analysis/ Comment online
	Thu., Sept. 8	Melody Analysis/ Two-Voice Counterpoint	Chapter 3	
4	Tue., Sept. 13	Two-Voice 1:1	Chapter 4	2. Melody
	Thu., Sept. 15	Two-Voice 2:1		
5	Tue., Sept. 20	"		3. 1:1
	Thu., Sept. 22	Two-Voice Chromaticism	Chapter 5	
6	Tue., Sept. 27	"		4. 2:1
	Thu., Sept. 29	Two-Voice 3:1	Chapter 6	
7	Tue., Oct. 4	Two-Voice 4:1		5. Chromaticism
	Thu., Oct. 6	Two-Voice Pieces	Chapter 7	
8	Tue., Oct. 11	Canon	Chapter 8	6. 3:1, 4:1
	Thu., Oct. 13	"		
9	Tue., Oct. 18	Invertible Counterpoint	Chapter 9	7. Canon
	Thu., Oct. 20	"		
10	Tue., Oct. 25	Two-Part Invention	Chapter 10	Midterm Project Due: Two-Voice Piece
	Thu., Oct. 27	"		
11	Tue., Nov. 1	Three-Voice Counterpoint	Chapter 11	8. Invertible Cpt.
	Thu., Nov. 3	"		
12	Tue., Nov. 8	Three-Voice Imitation	Chapter 13	9. Three Voices: Workbook p. 51
	Thu., Nov. 10	"		
13	Tue., Nov. 15	Fugue	Chapters 14-17	10. Imitation: Workbook pp. 57-58
	Thu., Nov. 17	"		
14	Tue., Nov. 22	"		11. Subjects
15	Tue., Nov. 29	"		
	Thu., Dec. 1	"		
Final	Fri., Dec. 9	Final Project Due by 3:00 PM: Fugue Exposition		