

Western University
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Department of Music Research and Composition
MUSIC 3610A – Modal Counterpoint I
Fall 2023

Course Information:

This course will develop writing skills through written two- and three-part exercises in species and free counterpoint following the style of Palestrina. It will culminate in the composition of motets and/or mass movements.

Analysis appropriate to the above studies will be undertaken in class and on some assignments. However, writing skills – not analytical skills – are the explicit focus of the course.

Meeting Times: *Information regarding meeting times and rooms will be available through the OWL course site.*

Instructor: Dr. Troy Ducharme

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Office Hours: By appointment, in person and virtual.

Requirements:

- 1) Completion of preparatory listening, reading or score study exercises using online modules in OWL;
- 2) Regular participation is required, including contributing to classroom discussions, completion of in-class practice exercises, and participating in group singing of examples.
- 3) Bring manuscript paper, pencils and eraser to every class for the purposes of note-taking and completing practice exercises.
- 4) Ten (10) weekly written assignments, with opportunities for revision and resubmission of exercises for improvements in grade. See Assignments handout.
- 5) Take-Home Exam/Final Project.

Evaluation:

Participation Exercises	20%
Assignments	50%
Take-Home Exam	30%

Participation Exercises:

- These will be completed and submitted online and/or in person in advance of and during class times.
- They will be graded for participation only, and not for achievement.
- There will be approximately 30 of these exercises, and a perfect score can be achieved by completing 75% of the total number (approximately 22)

Procedures for Assignments:

- Assignments should be scanned and submitted through the online assignments tool in advance of the due date and time listed there and referenced in the attached schedule. Assignments handed in late will only be graded if prior accommodations have been requested and approved, though students may still request feedback on their work if submitted late.
- All assignments are to be written by hand, in open score, using the old clefs and other notational conventions explained during the course. Electronic submission will be achieved by scanning work that has been completed by hand.
- Conformity to the technical features of Palestrina's music, as applicable within the confines of each exercise, is the primary measure of success in the assignments. Secondary to this, but still very important, are the creativity, musicality, and/or sensitivity with which those features are deployed.
- See the Assignments handout: There are systematic opportunities to revise and improve submitted work.

Take-home Exam:

The final project for the course will involve the composition of a motet or mass movement in two or three voices (or four voices, at the discretion of the instructor in consultation with individual students). The structural model for two-voice works will be the *Cantiones Duarum Vocum* of Orlando di Lasso, and for three-voice works the model will be isolated mass excerpts from Palestrina and/or Lasso. Preparatory work will be completed as part of assignments, with optional individual meetings to discuss work-in-progress. The final project will be due during the exam period, on a date to be assigned by the Registrar's office.

Texts:

There is no required text for this course. Necessary materials will be posted to OWL and concepts will be introduced through these materials and lectures. That being said, the following texts provide useful information and have been left on reserve in the library.

Jeppesen, Knud. *Counterpoint: The Polyphonic Vocal Style of the Sixteenth Century*. Translated with an introduction by Glen Haydon. Eaglewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1939. MT55. J46

Gauldin, Robert. *A Practical Approach to Sixteenth-Century Counterpoint*. Eaglewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1985. ML446. G38 1985

Schubert, Peter. *Modal Counterpoint: Renaissance Style*, Second Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008. MT55.S353 2008.

The student will also find the complete works of Palestrina, available at **M3.P345**, indispensable. This is a non-circulating book, so has not been placed on reserve.

Other scores, recordings, articles, and/or book chapters may be placed on reserve from time-to-time.

Notes:

- i. **The prerequisite for this course is Music 2651A/B or the former Music 2650A/B.** Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.
- ii. **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.
- iii. **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

- iv. **Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, mechanisms for 'second chances' have been built in to the assignment design: See assignments document for details.

Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

- v. **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is the assumption of this course that the thoughtful attempt, in written assignments, to apply the concepts studied in class is critical to the understanding of those concepts. Thus careful completion of the assignments and study of the instructor's comments on written work will prove a valuable resource. It should then go without saying that all work must be done independently.

- vi. **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in Thames Hall room 2170. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

- vii. **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf
- viii. **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (other than statutory holidays), and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays and observances and links to resources for more information. <https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>
- ix. **Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience), the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.
- x. **Electronic Devices in Classrooms:** The in-class use of electronic devices other than for instructor-approved in-class uses is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Instructor-approved in-class uses include and are limited to accessing course materials from OWL, completing some in-class assessments on OWL, and note-taking. Most in-class work will be done by hand with pencil and paper. See page 1 of this document.

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 T. Ducharme, Fall 2023

Schedule (subject to change):

	Date	Topic	Work Due
1	M 11 Sept	Introduction: The Study of Counterpoint; Course Outline.	
2	W 13 Sept	Melody Writing 1: Modes, Solmization, Notation	
3	M 18 Sept	Texts of the Mass, Basics of Latin text setting and accentuation Melody Writing 2: Features of Palestrina's Melody (without rhythm)	
4	W 20 Sept	First Species Counterpoint	Assignment 1
5	M 25 Sept	Second Species Counterpoint; Fourth Species Counterpoint	
6	W 27 Sept	Melody Writing 3: Features of Palestrina's Melody (with rhythm)	Assignment 2
7	M 2 Oct	Free white-note counterpoint (non-imitative); Imitation using white notes	
8	W 4 Oct	Repertoire Study: Imitation (2vv and 3vv)	Assignment 3
x	M 9 Oct	Thanksgiving Monday - No Class	
9	W 11 Oct	Third Species Counterpoint	Assignment 4
10	M 16 Oct	Fifth Species Counterpoint	
11	W 18 Oct	Declamatory Texture, <i>Tempus Imperfectum</i> (4 voices)	Assignment 5 <i>Resub*: Melodies</i>

12	M 23 Oct	Declamatory Texture, <i>Tempus Perfectum</i> (4 voices)	
13	W 25 Oct	Repertoire Study: Declamatory Texture	Assignment 6 <i>Resub: 1st and 2nd Species</i>
Fall Reading Week 30 October-5 November			
14	M 6 Nov	Free Counterpoint and Imitation in 2 voices	
15	W 8 Nov	Repertoire Study: Imitation in 2 voices	Assignment 7 <i>Resub: 4th species; White-note (non-imitative)</i>
16	M 13 Nov	3-voice Mixed Species	
17	W 15 Nov	3-voice Imitative Fifth Species	Assignment 8 <i>Resub: White-note (imitative)</i>
18	M 20 Nov	Repertoire Study: Imitation in 3 voices	
19	W 22 Nov	Two-voice canons	Assignment 9 <i>Resub: Melodies with Rhythm</i>
20	M 27 Nov	4, 5, and 6 voices - Basic Principles	
21	W 29 Nov	Cantus Firmus and Paraphrase Technique	Assignment 10 <i>Resub: 3rd and 5th Species</i>
22	M 4 Dec	Parody Technique	
23	W 6 Dec	Review	<i>Resub: Imitative Amens and Declamatory Texture</i>

**Resub = Deadline for resubmission (optional). See Assignments handout for details. Resubmission of Mixed Species exercises and the Canon will be possible between the end of classes and the due date for the take-home exam.*