

The University of Texas at El Paso
MUST 3211: 16th-Century Counterpoint
2 Credits

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dominic Dousa
OFFICE PHONE: (915) 747-7819

OFFICE: FFA 437
EMAIL: ddousa@utep.edu

OFFICE HOURS: (TBA)

For information about the instructor, please see <http://faculty.utep.edu/ddousa>.

Prerequisites: A minimum grade of 'C' in MUST 2314 (Music Theory IV) and MUST 2112 (Aural Skills IV), and a passing score (80% or higher) on the upper-level Music Theory and Aural Skills Barrier Exam

Course Materials

- Required Textbooks: Jeppesen, *Counterpoint: The Polyphonic Vocal Style of the Sixteenth Century* (Dover, 1992)
- Pencil and Manuscript Paper

Course Description

▪ MUST 3211 is an upper-level course in 16th-century counterpoint. The focus of study will be the musical style of Palestrina, though the works of other Renaissance-era composers will be considered. Through written exercises and analysis, students will gain an understanding of the compositional style of the Renaissance era. It is intended for theory/composition majors, but may be taken by all upper-level music students.

▪ Graduate students who wish to receive graduate credit for this course are required to complete a composition project that is broader in size and scope than the projects required of undergraduate students. For more details, see the description under the *Composition Project* for the **Course Outline** heading.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- understand and explain the principles of melodic, harmonic, and contrapuntal organization of the musical style of Palestrina and other Renaissance-era composers.
- apply the understanding of 16th-century musical style in writing short compositions that are consistent with the stylistic features of polyphonic Renaissance-era music.

Course Outline

▪ *Class Participation.* Active involvement is very important in this class. Class meetings will involve a discussion, analysis, and singing of exercises and representative compositions. Students are expected to contribute regularly to these discussions and will be assigned a participation score for every class.

▪ *Homework.* Progressive exercises in two- and three-part writing will be assigned regularly. Other assignments may include the analysis of representative 16th-century compositions. Unless otherwise noted, assignments are to be turned in at the *beginning* of the class period on the due date. Assignments turned in after this time will be considered late. **No credit will be awarded for late assignments** unless documentation of an excused absence is provided or unless arrangements have been made **prior** to class.

▪ *Composition Project.* As the culmination of the study of species counterpoint and free writing, students will complete a composition for three voices using a short traditional Latin text.

Graduate students who are taking the class for graduate credit will write a composition in 4 parts.

▪ *Exams.* There will be no exams in this class. During the final exam time for this class, we will analyze and sing through completed projects.

Tentative Semester Schedule

Weeks 1-6	Introduction / Exercises in two-part writing
Weeks 7-11	Exercises in three-part writing
Weeks 12-15	Composition projects / Introduction to 4-part writing
Finals Week	FINAL EXAM PERIOD Presentation of Completed Projects

Grading

Grades will be calculated based on class participation, homework, and the composition project. Each component will be calculated as a percentage score (for example, if you earn 180 out of a possible 215 points on the homework assignments, your percentage score for that component would be $180/215 * 100 = 83.7\%$). These scores will be weighted according to the following outline in determining your final grade. A sample semester grade calculation is provided below.

Grading Scale

Class Participation	10%	90% and above	A
Homework	50%	80% up to 90%	B
Composition Project	40%	70% up to 80%	C
		60% up to 70%	D
		Below 60%	F

SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Class Participation: 28 out of 30 total points earned = 93.3%
 Homework: 180 out of 215 total points earned = 83.7%
 Composition Project: 92 out of 100 total points earned = 92.0%
 Final Grade: $.10*93.3 + .50*83.7 + .40*92.0 = 88.0 = B$

- Census Day is the last day to drop a course without a grade of ‘W’.
- A grade of ‘W’ will be reported only if the student withdraws from the course by the Course Drop Deadline.
- A grade of ‘I’ will be reported only if extenuating circumstances (extended illness, legal matters, emergency) prevent the student from completing the course. An ‘I’ will not be given as a substitute for a failing grade. The student and instructor will determine a timetable for completion of all course requirements in a time frame that is in accordance with UTEP policy.
- *Academic Dishonesty.* Cheating is unethical, not acceptable, and a serious matter. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action according to UTEP catalog policy. Please see <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for more information.
- *Special Needs.* I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services (DSSO) at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu, or stop by at Room 106 in the Union East Building.

Names and Contact Information for Classmates

_____ E-mail _____ Phone _____
 _____ E-mail _____ Phone _____

****PLEASE NOTE: The information on this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and/or via email.**