

**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**MUST 3211: 16th-Century Counterpoint**  
**Fall 2024 / 2 Credits**  
Time and Place TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dominic Dousa    OFFICE: FFA 401C    OFFICE HOURS: (TBA)  
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For information about the instructor, please see the instructor's faculty page (click [here](#)).

**Prerequisites:** A minimum grade of 'C' in MUST 2314 (Music Theory IV) *and* MUST 2112 (Aural Skills IV), and a passing score on the upper-level Music Theory and Aural Skills Advancement 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.

### 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.
- *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.
- *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 (August 26-October 4)	Introduction / Exercises in two-part writing
Weeks 7-11 (October 7-November 8)	Exercises in three-part writing
Weeks 12-15 (November 11-December 5)	Composition projects
Finals Week (December 9-13)	<b>FINAL EXAM PERIOD</b> <b>Presentation of Completed Projects</b>

### GRADING

Grades will be calculated based on 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.

		<i>Grading Scale</i>
Homework	60%	90% and above A
Composition Project	40%	80% up to 90% B
		70% up to 80% C
		60% up to 70% D
		Below 60% F

For students with final scores within 1% of the next grade level (59%, 69%, 79%, 89%), the instructor may assign a higher grade if the student has (1) attended class regularly, (2) not missed homework, quizzes, and exams, (3) demonstrated *consistent* effort in mastering class material, and (4) shown improvement throughout the semester.

### SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Homework: 180 out of 215 total points earned = 83.7%

Composition Project: 92 out of 100 total points earned = 92.0%

Final Grade:  $.60*83.7 + .40*92.0 = 87.0 = B$

## OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

- 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. Please check UTEP's Academic Calendar for specific dates.
- 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. Students found to be cheating will be subject to disciplinary action according to UTEP policy. For more information, please see <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>.
- *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 Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or stop by at Room 106 in the Union East Building.

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