

The University of Texas at El Paso
MUST 3212: 18th-Century Counterpoint
Fall 2023 / 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 click [here](#) (UTEP Department of Music website).

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

- Textbook: Kennan, *Counterpoint 4th Edition* (Prentice Hall, 1999)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- MUST 3212 is an upper-level course in 18th-century counterpoint, involving analysis and composition of various contrapuntal forms of the 18th century, invention and fugue in particular. Through written exercises and analysis, students will gain an understanding of the contrapuntal procedures of the Baroque 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 18th-century.
- apply the understanding of 18th-century musical style in writing short compositions that are consistent with the stylistic features of polyphonic Baroque-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.* Analysis and compositional exercises will be given regularly to reinforce the concepts studied. 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 Projects.* Larger assignments include writing a 2-part invention and an exposition of a 3-part fugue, followed by an episode, and a subsequent subject entry.
- *Exams.* There will be no exams in this class.

TENTATIVE SEMESTER SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATES	LECTURE TOPIC	TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS
1	August 28-September 1	Introduction / Melodic Line	1-2
2	September 5-8	Melodic Line in 18th-Century Music	2
3	September 11-15	Principles of 2-Voice Counterpoint	3
4	September 18-22	Analysis of / Exercises in 2-part Writing (continued)	4, 5
5	September 25-29	Analysis of / Exercises in 2-part Writing (continued)	6
6	October 2-6	Free Writing in 2 Parts	10
7	October 9-13	Free Writing in 2 Parts (continued)	10
8	October 16-20	In-Class Discussion of Invention Projects	
9	October 23-27	3-Voice Counterpoint	11
10	October 30-November 3	3-Voice Counterpoint (continued)	13
11	November 6-10	3-Voice Counterpoint (continued)	13
12	November 13-17	Fugue (continued)	15
13	November 20-22	Fugue (continued)	15
14	November 27-December 1	In-Class Discussion of Fugue Project	
15	December 4-8	In-Class Discussion of Fugue Project (continued)	
FINALS WEEK		FINAL EXAM PERIOD Presentation of Completed Projects	

Information and due dates for specific analysis and writing exercises will be given in class.

GRADING

Grades will be calculated based on homework and projects. Each component will be calculated as a percentage score (for example, if you earn 684 out of a possible 750 points on the homework assignments, your percentage score for that component would be $684/750 * 100 = 91.2\%$). 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	35%	90% and above A
Invention	40%	80% up to 90% B
Fugue Project	25%	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 and turned in homework regularly, (2) demonstrated *consistent* effort in mastering class material, and (3) shown improvement throughout the semester.

SAMPLE SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

Homework: 684 out of 750 total points earned = 91.2%

Invention: 84 out of 100 points earned = 84.0%

Fugue Project: 93 out of 100 total points earned = 93.0%

Final Grade: $.35*91.2 + .40*84.0 + .25*93.0 = 88.8 = B$

- 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. 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, 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.**