

Western University  
Don Wright Faculty of Music  
Department of Music Research and Composition  
MUSIC 3610A – Modal Counterpoint I  
Fall 2021

**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:	Mondays	10:30AM-12:20PM	TC204
	Wednesdays	10:30AM-11:20PM	TC204

Instructor: Dr. Troy Ducharme

Office: TC231

E-mail: [tducharm@uwo.ca](mailto:tducharm@uwo.ca)

Phone: (519) 661-2111 x.87716

Office Hours: By appointment, in person and virtual.

**Note: 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

**Requirements:**

- 1) Completion of preparatory listening, reading or score study exercises using online modules (approximately 20).
- 2) Regular participation is required, including contributing to classroom discussions, completion of in-class practice exercises (approximately 20), and participating in group singing of examples. Bring manuscript paper, pencils and eraser to every class for the purposes of note-taking and completing practice exercises. *In the event of a move to online learning, this grade will be replaced by online practice exercises.*
- 3) Ten (10) weekly written assignments, with opportunities for revision and resubmission of work. See Assignments handout.
- 4) Take-Home Exam/Final Project

## Evaluation:

Participation		25%
Preparatory Exercises	10%	
In-class worksheets	15%	
Assignments		45%
Take-Home Exam		30%

## Preparatory Exercises and In-Class Worksheets:

- These will be completed online and/or in person in advance of and during class times.
- They will be graded for participation only.

## 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 after the deadline will receive an immediate penalty of 10%, and an additional 10% per day thereafter.
- 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 Lassus, and for three-voice works the model will be isolated mass excerpts from Palestrina and/or Lassus. 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.

## Grading:

Letter grades, or equivalent numerical values for the purpose of calculation, will be assigned to individual exercises or complete assignments according to the following guidelines. See also the assignments handout.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

**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.C38 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 will be placed on reserve from time-to-time.

**Notes:**

1) a) 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.

b) It should then go without saying that all work must be done independently. 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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

2) 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 UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

3) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence:** Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade.

**Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus.** Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. **Students are encouraged to contact their**

**Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.**

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Consideration\\_for\\_absence\\_s.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absence_s.pdf)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

**Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:**

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified.

In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by the MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

**4) Academic Consideration for Missing Work:** In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

- a. Please note that missed in-class exercises will not be made up: See above.
- b. See also 'Procedures for Assignments' on this document as well as the Assignments handout: Dates for revisions of work may also provide the opportunity to make-up missed work, though that is not their intended use.

**5) Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) 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](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

**6) Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious 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. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

**7) Contingency Plan:** In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be

delivered entirely 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 grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

8) The use of mobile phones and other electronic communications devices in class is to be limited. Laptops, tablets, and other devices are not normally required during class time and their use is prohibited except when and as required to access course materials on OWL or if used **exclusively** for note-taking or other class-appropriate purposes. Please turn off all devices that won't be used before entering the classroom and turn off all notifications on devices that will be used so that disruptions and distractions are avoided. Students whose devices disrupt the class or who are suspected of using devices inappropriately will be asked to leave the class.

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 T. Ducharme, Fall 2021

Schedule (subject to change):

	Date	Topic	Work Due
1	W 8 Sept	Introduction: The Study of Counterpoint; Course Outline.	
2	M 13 Sept	Melody Writing 1: Modes, Solmization, Notation Texts of the Mass, Basics of Latin text setting and accentuation	
3	W 15 Sept	Melody Writing 2: Features of Palestrina's Melody (without rhythm)	
4	M 20 Sept	First Species Counterpoint	
5	W 22 Sept	Second Species Counterpoint; Fourth Species Counterpoint	<b>Assignment 1</b>
6	M 27 Sept	Melody Writing 3: Features of Palestrina's Melody (with rhythm)	
7	W 29 Sept	Free white-note counterpoint (non-imitative)	<b>Assignment 2</b>
8	M 4 Oct	Imitation using white notes	
9	W 6 Oct	Repertoire Study: Imitation (2vv and 3vv)	<b>Assignment 3</b>
x	M 11 Oct	Thanksgiving Monday - No Class	
10	W 13 Oct	Third Species Counterpoint	<b>Assignment 4</b>
11	M 18 Oct	Fifth Species Counterpoint	
12	W 20 Oct	Declamatory Texture, <i>Tempus Imperfectum</i> (4 voices)	<b>Assignment 5</b> <i>Resub*: Melodies</i>

13	M 25 Oct	Declamatory Texture, <i>Tempus Perfectum</i> (4 voices)	
14	W 27 Oct	Repertoire Study: Declamatory Texture	<b>Assignment 6</b> <i>Resub: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Species</i>
<b>Fall Reading Week 1-7 November</b>			
15	M 8 Nov	Imitation in 2 voices	
16	W 10 Nov	Repertoire Study: Imitation in 2 voices	<b>Assignment 7</b> <i>Resub: 4<sup>th</sup> species; White-note (non-imitative)</i>
17	M 15 Nov	3-voice Mixed Species	
18	W 17 Nov	3-voice Imitative Fifth Species	<b>Assignment 8</b> <i>Resub: White-note (imitative)</i>
19	M 22 Nov	Repertoire Study: Imitation in 3 voices	
20	W 24 Nov	Two-voice canons	<b>Assignment 9</b> <i>Resub: Melodies with Rhythm</i>
21	M 30 Nov	4, 5, and 6 voices - Basic Principles	
22	W 1 Dec	Cantus Firmus and Paraphrase Technique	<b>Assignment 10</b> <i>Resub: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Species</i>
23	M 6 Dec	Parody Technique	
24	W 8 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.*