

Harmony, Counterpoint and Keyboard Skills I

MUSIC 173 (Spring 2024)

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays

09:00 – 09:50

Rm. 351 (T/Th); 353 (F)

“Persevere, do not only practice your art, but endeavor also to fathom its inner meanings;
it deserves this effort.”

Beethoven, July 17, 1812; letter to Emilie M.

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Office hours: Thursdays, 11:00-12:00 and by appointment (in-person or via zoom)
Contingency: If need be, information will be sent to the class with a back-up Zoom link and password.

class open forum address: 173@lists.ursatz.com

Supplies (bring with you to all classes)

Textbook:

Harmony and Voice Leading (4th Edition). Edward Aldwell & Carl Schachter.
(ISBN: 0-4951-8975-8). 5th edition is also acceptable (ISBN: 978-1337560573).

Counterpoint in Composition. Felix Salzer & Carl Schachter. (ISBN-10: 023107039X)

The textbooks will be shown to the teacher in the second week of the class.

Other:

Music paper; pencil with eraser. You may not use writing implements other than pencils.
Homework, quizzes, or exams done in anything except pencil will not be marked and will receive a failing grade.

Grading

This course consists of two components: harmony and counterpoint, and keyboard skills. You will earn one grade for harmony and counterpoint and one grade for keyboard skills. The harmony and counterpoint component will count as 65%, and the keyboard component will count as 35%, of your final grade. Thus, if you earn an 85 in harmony and counterpoint, but a 75 in keyboard, your final grade would be $(85 \times .65) + (75 \times .35) = 55.25 + 26.25 = 81.5$.

Each component will be graded in the following manner:

Homework assignments, quizzes, participation (see below): 50%

Midterm exam: 20%

Final exam: 30%

Participation: [see Attendance Policy, below]

As a matter of policy, I drop the lowest harmony and voice leading quiz or homework grade.

Final letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| A+ = 97-100 | A = 93-96 | A- = 90-92 | D+ = 67-69 | D = 63-66 | D- = 60-62 |
| B+ = 87-89 | B = 83-86 | B- = 80-82 | F = 0-59 | | |
| C+ = 77-79 | C = 73-76 | C- = 70-72 | | | |

Weekly keyboard assignment grades convert letters to the highest associated number for calculation purposes (A+ = 100; A = 96; A- = 92; B+ = 89; etc.) except for F, which will convert to 0.

Theory course material is presented in three forms: textbook readings, handouts/downloads, and lectures. You are responsible for all material, regardless of the medium of presentation. It is of utmost importance that you bring music paper to class and *take notes*. In the event that you are absent for a lecture, be sure to get the notes for that class from a classmate.

Please note that homework assignments will be posted on my website in the "courses" section. I do not accept late homework if the assignment is available to the student (e.g., via download), even if the student was absent when the assignment was given. Please see "Homework Policy," below, for additional information.

FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR YOUR MIDTERM or FINAL EXAMINATIONS WILL RESULT IN A FAILURE OF MUS 173 (regardless of your average).

ACSM policy mandates that an overall grade of C- or better, as well as passing grades (minimum of D) in both written and keyboard work, is required in order to continue to the next course in the sequence.

Per this policy, a student whose final average is C- or higher, but who does not have at least a D in either written theory or keyboard will receive a final grade of F.

Calculations

All written work is graded mathematically. The following is a partial list of errors to be on the listen for in written work; more severe infractions are in *italics*.

COUNTERPOINT

DISSONANCE

Downbeat dissonance in 1, 2, 3 species
Non-passing dissonance in 2 species
Chromaticism in major
Direct chromaticism in minor
Skip from a dissonance
Skip to a dissonance
Melodic dissonance
Outlined dissonance
Dissonant climax

VOICE LEADING

Parallel perfect 1, 5, 8
Antiparallel 1, 5, 8
Disallowed direct 1, 5, 8 (e.g., beats 3-1 in 3spc)
Incorrect rhythm
Voice crossing (per instance)
Intrusive voice overlapping
Sequence (per ex. after first statement)
Intrusive simultaneous skips
Ottava battuta and the like
Melodic subdivision (3spc)
Multiple skips in a row (per incident after 2nd)
Intrusive skip in similar dir. as preceding motion
Trill; near-trill ("noodling")
Missing #7 at cadence
Excessive stepwise motion (no variety)
Excessive consecutive par 3rds, 6ths
Large leap not filled in sufficiently
Multiple ties/repeated tones (1spc)
Missing tie on repeated note (1spc)

INTERVALS

Incorrect opening interval
Incorrect closing interval
Non-allowed unisons
Excessive harmonic interval range

HARMONY, VOICE LEADING, FIG. BASS REALIZATION, GENERAL

Incorrect notation
including, but not limited to:
Incorrect stemming
wrong note values
misplaced accidentals
Doubled 7th or leading tone
Use of chord not in directions
Parallel perfect 1, 5, 8
Contrapuntal ending
Not starting/ending on tonic
Incorrect diss leaps or
extended bass embellishment (e.g., trill)
Syntactic error (e.g., $V^7 - V$)
Harmonic syncopation
Non-resolution of diss
Incorrect resolution of diss
Voice overlap
Voice crossing
Incorrect spacing
Misspelling
Intrusive similar motion to a 5th or 8ve
Intrusive antiparallel 8ves
Adding to the figure
Missing note required by figures
Note out of range
Missing a voice

Unless otherwise specified, all chords *must* be labeled with Roman Numerals and figures in chorale work.

Material Covered / Course Objectives

MUS 173 is an introductory course in Harmony, Counterpoint, and Keyboard Skills. Procedures of four-part writing are introduced, and students learn the basic elaborations of the tonic-dominant relationship. Work is done in un/figured bass realization, chorale settings, Roman numeral and formal analysis, species counterpoint, and keyboard exercises.

As this course is dependent on mastery of fundamentals of theory material (MUS 73), I reserve the right to give regular fundamentals quizzes. These quizzes are timed and cover basic material which should have been mastered previously. This material includes, but is not limited to, identifying and writing: key signatures, intervals, triads, 7th chords, and scale degrees.

Quiz Policy

A student who is absent when any quiz is given must schedule a time to take an *equivalent* quiz within one week of the original quiz date. *It is the student's responsibility to arrange the make-up quiz.* Failure to take a quiz will result in a grade of "0" being entered for the quiz.

Participation / Attendance Policy

Class attendance is expected of all students.

Students are expected to show up to class on time. A 2-point reduction on the student's final grade will result for every 2 instances of tardiness.

Students will be allowed to make-up two class days' worth of in-class performance assignments (i.e., keyboard exercises) in total. Make-up work must be done within a week of the original due date. *It is the student's responsibility to arrange the make-up performance.* Any additional missed keyboard assignments will receive a grade of 0 (zero) and opportunity to make up the assignment will not be granted.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to adhere to the college's Academic Integrity policies. A copy of those policies may be found here:

<https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/academic-integrity-policy/>

Students may write in analysis, counting, fingering, etc. on prepared keyboard assignments. Students may *not* write in the names of notes *in any form* (e.g., letters, solfege syllables, etc.) on prepared keyboard assignments. Syllable writing-in may consist of any of the following: a full syllable (for example, "La"), an abbreviation (for example, "L"), a syllable written-in and then erased, or even a syllable using another alphabet (for example, Cyrillic (л), Greek (λ), Hebrew (ל), etc.) Students with note-identifying writing on their work will receive a zero (0) on the assignment.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Special Services Office, Kiely 171; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of classes.

For more information about services available to Queens College students, contact:

Mirian Detres-Hickey, Ph.D., Special Services Office; 171 Kiely Hall; 718-997-5870 (8:00am to 5:00pm); email: Mirian.detreshickey@qc.cuny.edu

In-Class Technology Policy

Students are expected to have cell phones, digital cameras, laptops, etc. put away during class time (though they may be kept on). During quizzes and exams, these devices are to be put away and *turned off*.

NO so-called “wearable” computers (e.g., Apple Watch™) are allowed to be used in the classroom.

Audio recordings of the class are permitted. Please inform the instructor if you are doing this.

NO videos may be taken during class. Videos taken in class will result in failure on all work for that day (first offence) or failure of the course (second offence).

Photographs of the material on the board may be taken *with the permission of the instructor*. This permission must be acquired for each instance. The taking of photographs without permission will result in failure on all work for that day (first offence) or failure of the course (second offence).

Email

Students are *strongly* encouraged to enter my email address and the class open forum address into their email address book and/or on their "safe list." This is particularly true of those with AOL accounts. Notifications from ISPs that legitimate emails sent from me or the class open forum have been tagged as spam will result in the removal of the student's address from the open forum list. This could result in missing important class announcements, for which I take no responsibility. STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK THEIR EMAIL REGULARLY.

Homework Policy

If the student is PRESENT when the assignment is due and fails to hand in the homework, it will NOT be accepted late.

If a student is ABSENT on the day the assignment is due, the student MAY hand in the assignment at the next class. If the student is absent at the next class, they must make arrangements to have the homework handed in (for example, give it to a friend to hand in; you may also scan it into a computer and send it, or make special arrangements with me).

Regardless of absence or presence, no homework will be accepted three or more class days after the due date.

THIS HOMEWORK POLICY WILL BE *STRICTLY* ADHERED TO.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

NO CLASS:

Feb 22 (Thu) Monday Schedule
Mar 29 (Fri) Easter
Apr 23 (Tue) Spring Break
Apr 25 (Thu) Spring Break
Apr 26 (Fri) Spring Break
Apr 30 (Tue) Spring Break

LAST CLASS OF THE SEMESTER:

May 14 (Tue)

MIDTERM EXAM:

Mar 14 (Thu): Written Theory
Mar 15 (Fri): Keyboard

FINAL EXAM:

May 10 (Fri): Keyboard
May 16-22 (exact date/time TBA): Written Theory