

Common-Practice Tonal Theory I – FALL 2004

College of William and Mary – Music 201
Mo/Wed 9:00am - 10:30am, Ewell Hall 154
Fri 9:00am - 9:50am, Ewell Hall 154

Instructor: Marcus Bittencourt, Assistant Professor of Music

Office Hours: by e-mail appointment (with at least one day notice), 110 Ewell

Office Phone: (757) 221-1070

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Required Materials:

Required book: Harmony and Voice Leading, 3rd edition.
by Edward Aldwell and Carl Schachter

Required book: The Study of Counterpoint.
by Johann Fux, translated by Alfred Mann.

Required course packet: Book of Exercises.
by Marcus Bittencourt.

- All the hand-outs given in class ;
- Pencils, pens and an eraser ;
- MUSIC STAFF PAPER !!!!!!!!
- Two music staff transparencies ;
- A BLACK color dry-erase thin-point marker pen (for the transparencies) ;

This class introduces the basic concepts of tonal writing through exercises in two-voice counterpoint, 16th century style, and four-part harmonic writing. There will be sight singing and ear-training exercises as well, including recognition of intervals and chords as well as rhythmic and melodic dictations. We will use the fixed-do system.

Grading is done in the following way:

A= 100-90% B= 89-80% C= 79-70% D= 69-60% F= 59-0%

Pluses and minuses are also used. There will be one midterm and one final assignment. The actual schedule may change as I see your progress in the class. In case changes have to be made, these changes will be properly announced during class and the new rules will supersede the ones contained in this syllabus. Also, you are expected to participate actively in the classes performing exercises. Your willingness, promptness and diligence to tackle those exercises in class (as well as the homework assignments) will be the most important part of your grade. Attendance is very important. You are allowed only two excused absences per semester. In other words, those two excused absences don't count against your grades (any unexcused absence will be counted even if you have no excused absences). Please tell me in advance that you will be absent. You can call me at my office, e-mail me, or have a friend tell me. I will accept excuses if you tell me when you come to the next class at the latest. If you miss class, you will be responsible for acknowledging the announcements and course notes/materials given during the missed class, as well as responsible for all assignments due.

If you have any problems or questions, please talk to me anytime. I will be very happy to help you out.

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Syllabus

Part I: Introductory Review – reading exercises.

8/25 8/27
8/30 9/1 9/3

Part II: First Species counterpoint – ear-training.

9/6 9/8 9/10
9/13 9/15 9/17

Part III: Second Species counterpoint – triads and roman numerals analysis – ear-training.

9/20 9/22 9/24
9/27 9/29 10/1

Part IV: Third Species counterpoint – basic tonal functions: I, IV, V – ear-training.

10/4 10/6 **10/8 midterms due**
10/11 (fall break, no classes)
10/13 10/15

Part V: Fourth Species counterpoint – inversions of triads – ear-training.

10/18 10/20 10/22
10/25 10/27 10/29

Part VI: Fifth Species counterpoint – more tonal functions: ii, vii, vi – ear-training.

11/1 11/3 11/5
11/8 11/10 11/12

Part VII: Harmonization of simple melodies – analysis – ear-training.

11/15 11/17 11/19
11/22
11/24 11/26 (thanksgiving, no classes)
11/29 12/1 12/3