

Tonal Harmony and Counterpoint MUSIC 759 (Fall 2020)

Tuesdays and Thursdays

13:40 – 14:55

Online

**“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.

Instructor: Eric Chernov
website: <http://www.ursatz.com>

Primary email: eric.chernov@qc.cuny.edu
Secondary email: chernove@ursatz.com

Office hours: Fridays, 2:00-3:00 and by appointment.
Information will be sent to the class with Zoom link and password before the first class of the semester.

class open forum address: 759@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). 3rd edition is also acceptable (ISBN: 0-1550-6242-5).

Other:

Music paper, note 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

The final grade for the semester 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 theory 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			

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 759 (regardless of your average).

ACSM Policy mandates that a student who does not earn a final grade of B or better is required to either (1) re-take the theory placement exam and pass it, or (2) re-take MUS 759 and get a grade of B or higher.

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
Non-passing dissonance in 2
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 perfect 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
Par. perfect unisons, 5ths or 8ves
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

After a short, intense review of theory fundamental material (including, but not limited to, identifying and writing: key signatures, intervals, triads, 7th chords, and scale degrees), principles of voice leading are reviewed and expanded upon. SATB, chorale-style work is done, with a concentration on chromatic techniques and vocabulary (including tonicization, modulation, leading-tone seventh chords, mixture, $bII^{(6)}$, and augmented sixth chords). Additional work is done in un/figured bass realization, Roman numeral and formal analysis, and counterpoint.

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.

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/>

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) furnish 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

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.

Homework Policy

Written homework will be handed in via scan or photo by 13:40 (1:40 PM) on the due date.

Homework not received will receive a grade of 0 (zero).

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

NO CLASS:

Sep 29 (Tue) Monday Schedule

Nov 26 (Thur) Thanksgiving

LAST CLASS OF THE SEMESTER:

Dec 08 (Tue)

MIDTERM EXAM:

Oct 15 (Thur)

FINAL EXAM:

Dec 14-20 (exact date/time TBA)