

# Tonal Harmony and Counterpoint

## MUSIC 759 (Fall 2021)

**Mondays and Thursdays**

**10:40 – 11:55 AM**

**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](mailto:eric.chernov@qc.cuny.edu)  
**Secondary email:** [chernove@ursatz.com](mailto:chernove@ursatz.com)

**Office hours:** Thursdays, 12:30-13:30 and by appointment.

Information will be sent to the class with Zoom link and password before the first class of the semester, and will be permanently posted on BlackBoard.

**class open forum address:** [759@lists.ursatz.com](mailto: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, and Roman numeral and formal analysis.

## 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](mailto: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 (scan or photo) by 10:40 AM on the due date.

Written homework should be *emailed* to me to my primary email address (eric.chernov@qc.cuny.edu).

If the student is having difficulties directly emailing homework, they may send their work via WeTransfer ( <https://wetransfer.com/> ).

Students should *not* send homework via other means (e.g., Google Docs).

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

## SOME IMPORTANT DATES

### NO CLASS:

Sept 06 (Mon) Rosh Hashana

Sept 16 (Thur) Yom Kippur

Oct 11 (Mon) Columbus Day

Nov 25 (Thur) Thanksgiving

### LAST CLASS OF THE SEMESTER:

Dec 13 (Mon)

### MIDTERM EXAM:

Oct 21 (Thur)

### FINAL EXAM:

Dec 15-21 (exact date/time TBA)