

**San José State University**  
**School of Music and Dance**  
**MUSC 104, Counterpoint, Section 01, Fall 2019**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Brian Belet
<b>Office Location:</b>	Music Building, Room 104
<b>Telephone:</b>	408-924-4632
<b>Email:</b>	Brian.Belet@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Office Hours occur during my posted advising times: (TBA) (use sign-up sheet posted next to my office door)
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Monday & Wednesday / 12:00 n – 1:15 pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Music Building, Room 210
<b>Course Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.beletmusic.com/SJSU_Courses.html">www.beletmusic.com/SJSU_Courses.html</a> (see 'MUSC 104' course files)
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	MUSC 013, Music Technology and passed Piano Proficiency. Upper-division undergraduate or graduate status in the Music Systems & Theory Area. For undergraduates, this is best demonstrated by successful completion of MUSC 4A, or placement by transfer articulation. Graduate students need to be admitted to the M.Mus. program with no lower-division course deficiencies in the Music Systems & Theory Area.
<b>Course Format:</b>	This course officially falls into the “Hybrid” category, as some of the course material and support is provided in an online manner. That stated, please note that this course is conducted primarily on campus, in the classroom as a traditional lecture-discussion course. Specific class periods and/or assignments that are conducted online will be announced in advance and thoroughly discussed in class. Online aspects of the course are housed on the Instructor’s web site: <a href="http://www.BeletMusic.com/sjsu-courses.html">www.BeletMusic.com/sjsu-courses.html</a>
<b>Final Exam:</b>	Monday, December 16, 2019, 9:45 am - 12:00 noon.

**Course Fees:**

Music Use Fee: Music majors and minors must pay a music equipment use fee of \$30 each semester. The fee must be paid directly to the Cashier's Office, and you must bring the receipt to the Music Office before completing registration. Applied music instruction will not be authorized until this fee is paid. Music 10B students, or students enrolled in any sound recording course, must pay a fee of \$22 each semester that they are enrolled in one or more of these classes. The fees are included in the student's bill, with other registration fees.

**Course Description**

Counterpoint is an upper-division course within the Music Systems & Theory Area. The course examines counterpoint as a compositional technique, separate from the constraints of any specific system or historical style. Through this study students gain a thorough understanding of contrapuntal practices throughout the Western art music tradition, with an emphasis on the literature of the Baroque period. Supplementary study examines Medieval, Renaissance and Contemporary techniques, as time permits.

**Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

GOALS: 1) Analyze contrapuntal music from the late Medieval through 21<sup>st</sup>-century. 2) Complete writing and analysis assignments. 3) Compose short examples following the styles and procedures studied in class. 4) Complete a final portfolio, including the start of a trio sonata and a major fugal project, as described in class.

**Course Content Learning Outcomes**

There is a teaching proverb that states: *'Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself.'* Provided a student applies himself/herself to this course — including attending class, reading the text, studying the music examples, completing assignments on time, asking questions when the material is not yet understood, studying daily outside of class time, working with tutors as needed (tutors are provided by the music program at no charge to the student) — the following outcomes can be expected:

- 1) Students will understand the concepts and procedures of contrapuntal music.
- 2) Students will gain a deeper understanding of the music they hear and perform by understanding and recognizing counterpoint in the literature.
- 3) Students will be able to competently analyze contrapuntal music.
- 4) Students will be able to compose musical exercises and composition projects that utilize counterpoint.

**Required Texts/Readings****Textbook**

(no text required)

**Recommended Resources**

*Modal and Tonal Counterpoint.* H. Owen (Schirmer).

*Anthology for Musical Analysis.* (Postmodern Update), 6<sup>th</sup> ed. C. Burkhardt (Wadsworth).

*Well-Tempered Clavier*. Bk 1. J.S. Bach (Henle edition preferred; Kalmus or Alfred also good. Score not available in the SJSU Bookstore.)

## **Course Topics**

See “Topic List” document, posted to the course website. This addendum is considered a part of this course syllabus. A summary topic list includes:

Consonance & Dissonance; Control of Dissonance

Review and Context: Renaissance concepts (2- and 3-voice counterpoint): modes, cadences, *musica ficta*, suspensions, other dissonances, imitation, invertible counterpoint, setting text (motet and Mass).

Primary course material: Tonal concepts (2- and 3-voice counterpoint): continuo and figured bass, harmonic considerations, cadences, dissonances (non-chord tones), trio sonata, invention, & fugue.

## **Classroom Protocol**

Complete assigned readings and homework on time. NOTE: No late homework will be accepted, and no make-up exams will be permitted unless cleared with the instructor. Possible reasons for late work include verifiable emergency illness and hospitalization, and family emergencies. Late / missed work will receive a grade of ‘F’ unless otherwise determined by the instructor.

Active class discussion is expected on all topics presented in class.

Course documents, including some assignments, will be posted to the course website. Students are responsible to regularly check the site for document updates, and all items posted on the site are considered regular course materials.

Written homework should be prepared and printed using standard music industry computer technology (e.g., Finale software).

All cell phones must be turned off while in class; plan personal communications for before or after class. Since most cell phones have photo, video, and text messaging capabilities, any student seen with a cell phone during class will be considered to be cheating and will automatically fail the course. Course lectures may not be recorded (audio or video) without Instructor’s permission. Larger tablet and laptop computers may be used when specific music score and/or audio examples are being referenced.

## **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-298.html>. Information about late drop is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

All assigned homework, quizzes, exams, and class participation will be graded. Assignments not submitted on time, unless excused in advance by the Instructor, will receive a grade of “F”. Assigned homework is due on time (not later than the beginning

of class) even when you have an excused absence. Hand-written assignments can be scanned or photographed, and emailed as a PDF attachment. Computer generated work (e.g., Finale score and mp3 audio) can also be emailed as PDF attachments. Absence does not grant special dispensations regarding written assignments and material covered in class. Students are responsible for all material discussed in class, whether present or not.

Course work weightings:

Written Assignments (weekly)	70%
Final Project / Portfolio	20%
Class Participation	10%

Letter grades are assigned on a 10-point scale, with “+” and “-” used as appropriate. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are graded on a normalized 100-point basis, so that letter grades correspond to the following GPA and percentage points:

Letter Grade	GPA	%
A+	4.0	99 - 100
A	4.0	93 - 98
A-	3.7	90 - 92
B+	3.3	88 - 89
B	3.0	84 - 87
B-	2.7	80 - 83
C+	2.3	78 - 79
C	2.0	74 - 77
C-	1.7	70 - 73
D+	1.3	69 - 69
D	1.0	64 - 67
D-	0.7	60 - 63
F	0.0	0 - 59

NOTE: Effective Fall 2017, all MUSC courses carry a final course grade requirement of C or better (not C-) to be considered a passing grade within the School of Music and Dance.

### University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at [www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/)