

Appendix 2d. Modal Counterpoint at Furman University (Brian Moseley)
(List of standards for species counterpoint portions, 0–4 grading scale by chapter/unit, final grade determined as 50% chapter scores, 50% model composition projects)

Standards (excerpt)

Species counterpoint (For First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Mixed species):

1. Write three counterpoints against a given CF—one above, one below, and one invertible at the octave.
2. Perform one of your solutions as a duet with a classmate, or while singing the counterpoint and playing the CF at the piano.
3. Improvise a counterpoint against a 4 or 5 note CF.

Grading Scale

I grade your work in each chapter on a four-point scale.

4 = Mastery of all of a chapter's skills. A-level work.

3 = Mastery of most of a chapter's skills; has attempted everything. B-level work.

2 = Average work; may not have attempted everything. C-level work.

1 = Below average. D-level work

0 = Fundamental mistakes or not attempted. F-level work.

Final Grade determination

Your final grade has two components: 50% of the grade is determined by your daily work on composition exercises, improvisation, analysis, and so on. The other 50% of the grade is derived from the three model composition projects carried out in the last half of the term.

Make-up Policy

Mastering this style involves some degree of failure. I want to encourage you to try things (especially improvising), and if they don't work, to try again. I don't want to penalize you for failure as long as you are able to convert that failure into success.

Therefore, for each chapter you will have a set of concepts or skills that you will work to master and for which you will receive a single grade. These skills may include composition exercises, performance, improvisation, analysis, and so on. Within two weeks of beginning a chapter, I will allow you to attempt that chapter's skills as many times as you like (within reason), and I will only count the most recent grade.