Special Focus Ensembles - MUSA 1137 003 CRN10806
TR Fox Fine Arts Center – Recital Hall/Recording Studio/340

Alexander Kariotis
Athomaskar@utep.edu
FFA 133
Office hours by appointment by email

Course Description
Commercial Music Ensemble, an audition only ensemble at UTEP.

Course Goals
Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Lead a band or contemporary ensemble.
- Understand how to "talk musically" to the different musicians in a commercial ensemble.
- Run a rehearsal with a commercial ensemble.
- Read and write charts for musicians
- Arrange solo/ensemble musical numbers
- Perform a commercial selection with the ensemble.

Required Texts, Materials, or Equipment

- Three ring binder/iPad for music and notes
- Phone with ample space for recording audio and video

Daily Work/Homework

- Write out charts for ensemble players
- Practice solo/ensemble selections
- Memorize mus

Assignments: Descriptions

- Depending on class size, weekly performance rehearsals with proper music in binder and chart copies for each musician

Class Participation

This class is an "open forum" style class. Students who are not performing will be asked to be involved either as back-up singers or extra instrumentalists depending on ability. During rehearsals students will be encouraged to offer ideas on arrangement, instrumentation, and other factors to help aid the performer at capturing his/her musical idea. All constructive criticism will be given with the utmost respect to the performer and musicians.

During rehearsals we will at times, bebroken up into small groups utilizing the lobby and balcony lobby to work on dance routines and harmonies.

Each performance given by the Commercia Music Ensemble will be based on a theme. Recent themes have been the 80's and Broadway. The ensemble will also dress the part, meaning attention will be given to wearing the proper clothes to express the style of the times.

Dance will also be incorporated into the performances/rehearsals. Dance captains will be assigned and when available, outside student choreographers will help choreograph some numbers.

Since we will be working on new numbers each semester, the schedule will be announced at the beginning of each week as to what specific songs, dances, harmony rehearsal you will be expected to know for the upcoming rehearsals. You willneed to be flexible as each week will have a different schedule.it is impossible to set out a weekly schedule here in the syllabus as we will be reviewing and learning material as we go. As much detail as possible given the class schedule will be given at the end of each rehearsal for the next day and at the beginning of each week for the upcoming rehearsals. Illness always plays a factor in deciding what we can/cannot rehearse so it is imperative that you are always working on the numbers that you are in outside of class.

We will NOT be learning music in class together. You MUST learn your individual parts at home and come to rehearsal knowing them well. We have limited time to put our show together and cannot be learning music in rehearsals.

Your failure to learn music at home will result in you being cut from the specific number or if it is a persistent problem being cut from the ensemble.

Course Grading

Grades are based on class participation, performances of songs in class, preparation of songs, binder organization, charts for musicians.

50% - Attendance and active participation in class
20% - Quality of preparation
20% - Binder preparedness/charts
10% - Final Concert

Grading Scale

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

Week 1	Review Syllabus and class expectations Discuss song choices
Week 2	Rehearse first selections
Week 3	Discuss Solo/Cabaret Songs
Week 4	Rehearse second selections
Week 5	Private coaching cabaret Songs Review 1 and 2 song selections
Week 6	Rehearse third selections
Week 7	Private coaching cabaret Songs Review 1 and 2 song selections
Week 8	Private coaching cabaret Songs Review 2 and 3 song selections
Week 9	Dance breakout Cabaret coachings Rehearse all songs
Week 10	Dance breakout Cabaret coachings Rehearse all songs
Week 11	Dance breakout Cabaret coachings Rehearse all songs
Week 12	Run act 1 Cabaret
Week 13	Run Act 2 Band
Week 14	Dress Rehearsal 1 full show acts I and II
Week 15	Dress Rehearsal 2 full show acts I and II

Attendance Policy

Three tardies equals one absence—Students are expected to arrive on time to all class meetings. Tardiness not only affects attendance grade, but also detracts from the learning experience.

Notification of absence—if a student is unable to attend class due to sickness or some other unforeseen circumstance, it is requested that they notify the professor. Each student is allowed one free absence before their attendance grade will be affected; any subsequent absence will reflect negatively on the student's attendance.

Unless an absence is due to a university sanctioned event and proper, signed notification is given in advance to the specified event, it will not be excused. If students are going to miss class due to a foreseen scholastic/university event, they must bring the appropriate signed document to the professor at least one week prior to the event.

The attendance portion of the grade (50% of the whole) will be calculated as indicated below. Be aware that if the student is not present, his/her participation grade will also suffer.

1-2 absences = 90% - A
3-4 absences = 80% - B
5-6 absences = 70% - C
7-8 absences = 60% - D
9 or more absences = 50% - F

Academic Honesty

http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu , or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass . CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and, if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Email:

UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

Excused absences and/or course drop policy:

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24-hour advance notice via email.

OR

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

Incomplete grade policy:

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Accommodations policy:

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodation will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship for the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodation online via the CASS portal.

Scholastic integrity:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

Course resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Acknowledgment:

By signing this document, you acknowledge that you have received and read the syllabus for MUSA 1137 003 (Fall 2023) taught by Professor Alexander Kariotis and understand all course expectations.

Student's signature Date

_____

Student's printed name and ID number:

_____