

Commercial Arranging, Analysis and Composition I

MUST 3261

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman

Office: FFA 437

Contact: 747-7805, cereyman@utep.edu

Class Time:

Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30am-10:20am

Location: Prospect Hall Room 308

Office Hours:

Monday/Wednesday 11:30AM-12:00PM, Tuesdays/Thursdays 9AM

*Please let me know if you'd like to meet (even if it is during my scheduled office hours). I will do my best to make myself available at times other than these listed - just ask!

Required Materials:

- staff paper
- ability to listen to music while at a piano/keyboard
- access to music notation software (free versions available)
- USB drive or external hard drive to back-up projects

Attendance Policy

Students will be given daily grades for participation and progress in class. If a student is not in class (including tardiness), they will not receive credit for that class period. Of course, you will be excused for university-related events as long as they are approved by me at least two weeks in advance via email correspondence. **DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE SICK.** Each student will be given 3 excused absences due to illness; further absences can be made up on a case-by-case basis. Please stay in communication with me when you miss class for any reason.

Course Description

An introduction to commercial theory, styles, notation, arranging and composition through listening, transcribing, analysis and arranging/composition projects.

Course Goals

- Develop musical skills through listening, transcribing and analysis
- Develop an understanding of music theory and practice in an historical and cultural context
- Develop creative musical skills within a collaborative environment
- Apply practices of tonal harmony to commercial and jazz harmony, melody and form
- Develop arranging-composing-production skills (ranges, timbre, transpositions, clefs, conventions and peculiarities) of the following instruments: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass and drums
- Gain familiarity with conventional notation methods: chord symbols, Nashville Numbers, manuscript, etc.

Course Overview

- Style analysis of commercial and jazz styles and form
- Diatonic chord progressions and substitutions
- Secondary dominants and substitutions
- Pentatonic scales
- Chord symbol notation: jazz notation and Nashville Numbers
- Lead sheet (head chart) notation
- ii- V I and ii- V tonicization
- Major scale modes
- tritone substitution
- nonfunctional chords

Assignments

MODULE I (30pts total) Diatonic melodies, chords, and harmonic substitution

Week 1 & 2:

Assignment #1: Choose 1 current pop/commercial song that exemplifies this genre and transcribe and notate (handwritten) the chords and form. Due Sept. 6, 9:30AM (5pts)

Assignment #2: Compose 5 harmonic progressions, due Sept. 11, 9:30AM (5pts)

- 8 measures each
 - using only diatonic chords
 - Turn in handwritten with lead sheet symbols
- RUBRIC: diatonic, notation, chords

Week 3 & 4:

Assignment #3: Notate lead sheet (melody and chords) for Happy Birthday in F major, due Sept. 18, 9:30AM (5pts)

RUBRIC: melody, chords, notation

Assignment #4: Compose 5 melodies with chords, due Sept 25, 9:30AM (5pts)

- 8 measures each

- using only diatonic chords and scales
- turn in handwritten with lead sheet symbols

RUBRIC: diatonic, notation, chords, scales

Week 5:

Assignment #5: Reharmonize Amazing Grace - lead sheet with melody and chords, due Oct. 2, 9:30AM (10pts):

- 1 time through the melody with basic harmonies
- 1 time through the melody with diatonic chord substitutions
- 1 time through the melody using secondary dominants and borrowed harmonies
- Hand written

RUBRIC: melody, chords, diatonic, secondary chords

MODULE 2 (25pts total) Basic jazz harmony, instrumentation, and notation

3-horn arrangement of "Blue Bossa" with rhythm section part (chord symbols only)

- introduction, melody 2 times, ending
- 1 melody with 2-part harmony
- 3-part harmony
- melody must be in different instrumentation throughout
- score and parts in Finale (electronic notation software)

RUBRIC: melody, chords, diatonic, secondary chords, notation/format of score and parts

Week 6: getting to know horns (alto saxophone, trumpet and trombone)

Assignment #6: handwritten sketch of arrangement indicating 3 parts and chord symbols, due October 9, 9:30AM (5pts)

Week 7: Electronic notation software

Assignment #7: draft of score in electronic notation, due October 16, 9:30AM (5pts)

Week 8: Final Draft

Assignment #8: Final Draft of transposed score and parts (include audio file), due Oct. 23, 9:30AM (15 pts)

MODULE 3: FINAL PROJECTS (45pts total)

Week 9-15:

Transcribe pop/commercial song and arrange for 3 horns and rhythm section

- alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano/guitar, bass, drums
- score and parts in electronic notation software
- melody with accompaniment
- melody in 3-part harmony
- melody with 2-part accompaniment (counter-line, back-up)

RUBRIC: melody, chords, diatonic, secondary chords, notation

- song selection Due October 25, 9:30AM (3pts)
- lead sheet of transcribed song Due November 1, 9:30AM (3pts)
- lead sheet of arrangement or handwritten rough draft Due November 13, 9:30AM (4pts)
- mid-project check-in/progress-report Monday, November 20, 9:30AM (5pts)
- Draft I Due November 27, 9:30AM (10pts)
- Final Draft of transposed score and parts (PDFs) and audio file (mp3), Due December 6, 11:59PM (20pts)

Grade Breakdown

30%: Module 1 assignments and projects

25%: Module 2 assignments and projects

45%: Final Project and assignments

Statement for Accommodations and Support

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.

Required Attendance

October 10, 2023, 7:30PM, Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
Jazz Band concert

November 15, 2023, 7:30PM, Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
UTEP Orchestra concert, featuring *The OceanMaker* film score by Chris Reyman

December 9, 2023, 7:30PM, Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
Commercial Music Ensemble Recital

**I want this class to be beneficial to you individually. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns you may have about a particular assignment, the class as a whole or anything else.

***The content of this course is subject to change at any time. I will be adjusting the course to fit the particular needs and interests of this group of students. If anything changes in how I will evaluate you, I will let you know as soon as I can.