

# **Commercial Arranging, Analysis and Composition III**

## **MUST 3263**

**Instructor:** Dr. Chris Reyman

**Office:** FFA 133

**Contact:** 747-7805, cereyman@utep.edu

**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00am-8:50am

**Location:** Prospect Hall Room 308

### **Office Hours:**

Mondays-Thursdays 10:30-11:30AM

\*Please let me 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**

The application of commercial theory, styles, notation, arranging and composition through listening, transcribing, analysis and arranging/composition projects.

### **Course Goals**

- project-based learning
- 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.
- Gain familiarity of notation software
- Gain familiarity of sequencing and composing music for media using DAW

### **Course Overview**

- vertical sonorities and voice leading
- Notation software
- Mode mixture
- Sequencing software
- Composing music for media
- Individual composition/arranging assignments

### **PROJECTS**

This course will be project based and you will have several ongoing, longer-term collaborative and individual projects with overlapping deadlines. All of these deadlines are subject to change.

Project 1: writing for strings (individual project)

Project 2: Video Game music (collaboration with Learning Studio, UGLC)

Project 3: We Are Water (interdisciplinary collaboration)

Project 4: Compose Yourself (individual project)

#### Week 1

Create something new (10pts), **Due Aug. 30 (8AM)**

- 30 seconds (approximately) of music created on/for your instrument with you as primary performer
- Must be notated (chord sheet, lyrics, score), but may contain improvised elements
- Present as media project in some form

#### Week 2

Melody/harmony composition (10pts), **due Sept. 7 (8AM)**

Compose 5 16-measure melodies and chord symbols with a clear formal structure using a wide variety of harmonic content with a tonal center, though not simply diatonic.

Notate in lead sheet format. Select your favorite melody and send only that melody to me to grade and share with the class.

### **Week 3-6: Project 1**

Arrange a 1.5 minute piece for string quartet (2 violins, viola, cello) using the melody you composed last week.

- Compose more material for the melody you composed (repeat melody, but change the melody slightly, or reharmonize) and compose material for the introduction, interlude and ending.

- Sketch/draft of arrangement (5pts), **DUE Sept. 14 (8AM)**
- Draft of score in electronic notation program (5pts), **DUE Sept. 21 (8AM)**
- Final score, separated parts and audio file (15pts) **DUE Sept. 28 (8AM)**

Resources:

[https://wiki.youngcomposers.com/Orchestration:\\_Introduction\\_to\\_Strings](https://wiki.youngcomposers.com/Orchestration:_Introduction_to_Strings)

In particular note the TUNING and GENERAL RANGES of the *violin*, *viola* and *cello* (also called violoncello) and NOTATION OF THE STRING SECTION

[https://wiki.youngcomposers.com/Orchestration:\\_Techniques\\_of\\_Strings\\_-\\_Part\\_1](https://wiki.youngcomposers.com/Orchestration:_Techniques_of_Strings_-_Part_1)

In particular BOWING, PHRASE MARKINGS and ARTICULATIONS (legato, staccato, tremolo and pizzicato)

### **Video Game Music**

Compose portion of virtual reality game being developed by UTEP students in collaboration with the UGLC Learning Studio making use of composition techniques, DAWs, recording, etc.

- Sept. 8, 4PM – meet with game developers to start conversation about music (other meetings will be scheduled as necessary)
- Sept. 23rd, 8AM – check-in #1 (5pts)
- Oct. 21, Draft #1 (5pts)
- Nov. 11, Draft #2 (10pts)
- Dec. 10, Final Draft (20pts)

### **We Are Water Project: music and dance piece with community participation**

Compose a 1.5 minute portion of the piece using composed elements and elements recorded during the community workshops. You must attend 1 of the community workshops to help with recording sound for projects (Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20). All workshops will take place at the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park (<https://www.utep.edu/cerm/rio-bosque/location-and-hours.html>)

You each will create a portion of this piece, completed by Dec. 10, which will then be compiled into the final sound score used for the performance at the Rio Bosque spring 2022.

This will be in collaboration with the We Are Water interdisciplinary project alongside the Department of Theatre and Dance, as well as the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts and the Center for Environmental Resource Management. Compositional concepts will be building upon the location-aware research done previously by Dr. Reyman and Dr. Jarvis, which you can see a demo of here

[https://www.brianedwardjarvis.com/MusicTheoryWebApps/ReymanProject/reyman\\_project\\_2\\_0.html](https://www.brianedwardjarvis.com/MusicTheoryWebApps/ReymanProject/reyman_project_2_0.html)

Weeks 7-10 We Are Water Project deadlines (25pts)

1. Check in #1 **DUE Oct. 5 (8AM)**
2. Check in #2 **DUE Oct. 12 (8AM)**
3. Draft #1 **DUE Oct. 19 (8AM)**
4. Rough Draft **DUE Oct. 26 (8AM)**
5. Final Draft **due Dec. 10**

## **Week 11-15 Final Projects (30pts), DUE Dec. 10 (8AM)**

Compose Yourself: project featuring yourself (composition/arrangement)

Possible instrumentation:

vocal ensemble, choir  
brass quintet  
sax quintet  
guitar ensemble  
mixed ensemble, Commercial Music Ensemble  
music for media project  
any ensemble you perform in

\* HINT \* use your instrument and what you're familiar with

- Concept, **DUE Oct. 26 (8AM)**
- Sketch of preliminary ideas (any combination of written notation, video or audio), **DUE Nov. 9 (8AM)**
- Draft of project **DUE Nov. 23 (8AM)**
- Final project **DUE Dec. 9 (8AM)**

### **Here is the rubric for each project:**

#### NOTATION

rehearsal letters/double bars:

format:

neat/readable:

#### THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE

harmony:

melody:

rhythm:

#### ORCHESTRATION

transposition:

ranges:

writing for each instrument:

#### AESTHETIC

interest:

quality:

musicality:

#### RECORDING

sound quality:

performance:

format:

## Grade Breakdown

Semester Assignments and Projects	60%
Final Project Due Dec. 5	40%

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.sa.utep.edu/CASS).

## COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org)

\*\*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.