

Commercial Arranging, Analysis and Composition I

12457 - MUST 3261 - 001

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman

Office: FFA 133

Contact: 747-7805, creyman@utep.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am, Mondays 12:30-1:30pm, Thursdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm

*Please let me know if you'd like to meet with me, 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!

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

Location: Prospect Hall Room 308

Required Materials:

- 1) folder/binder for class materials
- 2) staff paper
- 3) ability to listen to music while at a piano/keyboard (mp3 player)
- 4) access to software to complete assignments
- 5) USB drive or external hard drive to back-up projects

Attendance Policy

Students will be given daily grades for participation in class. If a student is not in class (including excessive tardiness), they will not receive a grade for that class period. Students with three or more unexcused absences will not receive a grade higher than a B. 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.

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

- Transcriptions of commercial/popular songs
- Harmonizations of simple melodies
- Arrangements for small group: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass and drums
- Composition projects

**All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date they are due. Late work will be accepted for partial credit up to a week after the due date. It is in your interest to keep all of your class materials, including completed/graded assignments, in a binder or folder. You may need to refer to things later in the semester.

Grade Breakdown

30%: Class participation/attendance
20%: Class assignments/projects
6%: Unit 1 Project (transcriptions and lead sheets) Due Sept. 25
7%: Unit 2 Project (3 horn arrangement) Due Oct. 23
7%: Final Project Progress Report 1 (modal composition) Due Nov. 6
10%: Final Project Progress Report Due Nov. 20
20%: Final project Due Dec. 15

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.

**I want this class to be beneficial to you personally. 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.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Sept. 4 (Labor Day) NO CLASS