

# Commercial Arranging, Analysis and Composition I

## 12348 - MUST 3261 - 001

**Instructor:** Dr. Chris Reyman

**Office:** FFA 133

**Contact:** 747-7805, [creyman@utep.edu](mailto:creyman@utep.edu)

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am, 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

\*\*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.

### Weeks 1-3: Diatonic Harmony and Diatonic Substitutions

#### Assignment #1 (Due September 5)

1. Transcribe and notate chords for 1 song (5pts)  
RUBRIC: chords, notation
2. Compose 5 harmonic progressions (10pts)
  - 8 measures each
  - using only diatonic chords
  - Turn in handwritten with lead sheet symbols
 RUBRIC: diatonic, notation, chords

#### Assignment #2 (Due September 12)

1. Notate lead sheet (melody and chords) for Happy Birthday in F major (10pts)  
RUBRIC: melody, chords, notation
2. Compose 5 melodies with chords (10 pts)
  - 8 measures each
  - using only diatonic chords and scales
  - turn in handwritten with lead sheet symbols
 RUBRIC: diatonic, notation, chords, scales

## Weeks 4-5: Secondary Keys and Borrowed Chords

### Assignment #3 (Due September 24)

1. Transcribe and notate lead sheet (chords and simple melody) for 1 song (10pts)

RUBRIC: chords, melody, notation

2. Compose 5 melodies with chords (10pts) (8 measures each)

- 8 measures each
- using diatonic chords and scales with 1 borrowed chord (from a secondary key)
- turn in handwritten with lead sheet symbols

RUBRIC: diatonic, notation, chords, scales

## Weeks 6-8: Arranging

### Assignment #4 (Due October 8)

Reharmonize Amazing Grace - lead sheet with melody and chords (15pts) :

1. 1 time through the melody with basic harmonies
2. 1 time through the melody with diatonic chord substitutions
3. 1 time through the melody using secondary dominants and borrowed harmonies
4. score in electronic notation software

RUBRIC: melody, chords, diatonic, secondary chords

## Weeks 9-11: Scoring for saxophone, trumpet and trombone

### Assignment #5 (Due October 29) (25 pts)

3-horn arrangement of Summertime with rhythm section part (chord symbols only)

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

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

## Final Project

Transcribe Pop song and arrange for 3 horns and rhythm section

alto/tenor 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)

record in studio

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

- select song Due October 31 (3pts)
- lead sheet of transcribed song Due November 7 (5pts)
- lead sheet of arrangement or handwritten rough draft Due November 19 (10pts)
- mid-project check-in/progress-report Monday, November 26 (3pts)
- Draft 1 Due December 3 (10pts)
- Final Draft Due December 7 (25pts)
- Recording sessions Monday, December 10, 6-10pm (bring printed parts)

### **Grade Breakdown**

30%: Class participation/attendance

20%: Class assignments/projects

25%: Projects

25%: Final project

### **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).

\*\*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:**

September 3: (Labor Day) NO CLASS

November 12: Chris Reyman Faculty Recital