

Commercial Piano I

MUSA 2255

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman

Office: FFA 133

Contact: 747-7805, creyman@utep.edu

Class Time: Mondays 8:30AM-9:20AM

Location: Digital Keyboard Lab, FFA

***Due to COVID-19, this class will be delivered in a hybrid format, with options for meetings on campus during class time, synchronous classes remotely during class time, and asynchronous materials completed remotely. If classes are not already remote, the remainder of the semester after Thanksgiving break will be remote. I have designed the course to function fully online, if necessary.

Office Hours:

Due to social distancing regulations, all office hours will be held remotely via ZOOM conference calling app (available for free) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:30AM. You can also email me to set up another time to talk via phone or video call.

Attendance Policy

Due to COVID-19, there will not be any grade given for attendance. I will work with each of you if you miss face-to-face classes due to illness. **DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE SICK.**

Course Description

An introduction to commercial piano styles and techniques through listening, transcribing, analysis, improvisation and performance.

Course Goals

- Understand and execute fundamental elements of commercial piano styles and technique
- Develop an understanding of jazz/commercial theory and notation
- Build “Ears to Fingers” skills through ear training and call and response exercises
- Develop improvisational skills at the keyboard

Course Overview

- diatonic chords and secondary dominants (root position and R/H chord-L/H bass note)

- hearing basic functional tonality (major and minor) and playing (ears to fingers)
- improvising (bass lines to melody lines)
- blues (form, melody, variations and voicings)
- ii- V I harmony (major/Ionian, minor/Dorian and dominant/Mixolydian)
- rootless 9th chords
- 3/7 voicings
- 4-note spread voicings
- tritone substitution
- basic accompaniment for melody instrument
- turnarounds

Course Activities/Assignments

- comping and improvising over jazz harmonies
- transcribing, notating lead sheet and performing commercial/pop songs
- reading lead sheets

Course Schedule

**All assignments will be given on Mondays and due the following Monday, unless otherwise indicated. All these dates are in the syllabus, but are subject to change throughout the semester.

Module 1: Aug. 24-Sept. 8

Major Key Diatonic Chords, Functional Tonality and Secondary Dominants

- root position triads
- chord-scale relationships
- grooves: 2-beat, waltz, bolero

PERFORMANCE EXAM #1 - Sept. 14

- grooves (LH bass notes, RH chords)

Module 2: Sept. 14-Oct. 5

7th chords and rootless voicings and The Blues (in C)

- 3/7 and 7/3 guide tones
- The Blues (I IV V) form
- riff blues heads by ear
- walking bass lines
- improvise with blues scales

PERFORMANCE EXAM #2 - Oct. 12

- LH bass notes, RH chord voicings through blues
- LH walking bass line, RH 3/7 guide tones through blues
- RH riff blues melodies
- improvisation

Module 3: Oct. 12-Nov. 2

UNIT 3: ii-7 V7 I and the Jazz Blues progression (altered dominant chords in F)

- 9th chords
- rootless 3-5-7-9 and 7-9-3-5 voicings
- ii-7 V7 I progressions in all 12 keys
- LH bass lines and RH chords
- melody and LH chords (Pfrancing)

PERFORMANCE EXAM #3 - Nov. 9

- LH bass lines and RH chords
- RH melody, LH chords

Module 4: Nov. 9-Nov. 30

UNIT 4: Blue Bossa

- altered dominant chords
- minor tonality
- bossa groove
- melody and LH chords
- improvisation

Final Exam Dec. 7

- Blue Bossa
- GROOVE: LH bass lines, RH chords
- RH melody, LH chords
- RH improvisation

Grade Breakdown

Weekly Progress Quizzes: 45%

Module Exams: 30%

Final Exam: 25%

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.

UTEP Policies regarding COVID-19

The UTEP [Temporary Health and Safety Policy](#) requires all faculty, staff, and students to follow these guidelines:

- **Stay at home** if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test.
- **Report** (screening.utep.edu) if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test.
- **Complete screening questions** (screening.utep.edu) every day before coming to campus and follow instructions provided.

While on campus:

- **wear face coverings** when in common areas or when others are present;
- maintain a minimum **separation of six (6)** feet between yourself and others when possible, and arrange spaces to make this possible in almost all circumstances;
- **adhere to room/space limitations** on number of occupants; and
- **wash and/or sanitize hands** frequently.

Faculty Responsibilities (a select list for your information)

- Complete self-screening (screening.utep.edu) prior to every campus visit.
- Inform students that they are required to complete self-screening (screening.utep.edu) prior to every campus visit. You should provide this information even if your course is entirely online because students may come to campus for other reasons (e.g., library, computer or internet access).
- Have a backup plan for instruction in the event that you become ill or must self-isolate.
- Verify that you have the ability to provide accommodations to students who might miss class, assignments, or exams because of COVID-19. When possible, discuss accommodations in syllabi.

- Include a COVID-19 statement(s) for classroom/lab/studio preventive policies in the syllabus and/or other official course documents (see below).

Student responsibilities

- Complete self-screening (screening.utep.edu) prior to every campus visit.
- Complete COVID-19 student training at [this site](#).
- Contact instructor if temporary accommodations due to COVID-19 are needed (i.e., due to positive COVID-19 test, symptoms, or exposure).
- If unable to wear a face covering (e.g., medical reasons), the best course of action is to enroll in courses that are entirely online or to work with academic advisors, if necessary, to identify alternative courses. If this is not possible, request an accommodation from [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS) prior to coming to campus for in-person activities. Students who receive an accommodation to not wear a face covering must share this with the professor and work to minimize contact with others in the class.

Statement Regarding COVID-19 Precautions:

- You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know anyone who should report any of these three criteria, encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.
- For each day that you attend campus "for any reason" you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.
- Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section

1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

- Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.
- Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.
- Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

***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.