

Commercial Piano II
MUSA 2256 - 001

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman
Office: FFA 133
Contact: 747-7805, creyman@utep.edu

Teaching Assistant: Fernando Fonseca
Email: fafonsecago@miners.utep.edu

Office Hours:

Mondays through Thursdays 10:30-11:30AM

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

Location: Digital Keyboard Lab, FFA

Attendance Policy

Students will be given 3 unexcused absences. I will work with each of you if you miss classes due to illness. DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE SICK. 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

Developing 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 in major and minor keys: major 7th, minor 7th, half-diminished, fully diminished
- hearing functional tonality and mode mixture (major and minor) and playing (ears to fingers)
- turnarounds
- extended tertian harmony and alterations
- learning jazz blues, standards and jazz standards
- arranging tunes
- reading lead sheets
- transposition
- reharmonization

Course Activities/Assignments

- comping, improvising and walking bass lines over jazz harmonies
- transcribing, notating lead sheet and performing commercial/pop songs
- reading lead sheets
- arranging tune (intro, ending)

Course Schedule

Module 1: Cantaloupe Island (25 points total)

- melody and chords, DUE Jan. 26 (5 points)
- Blues scale improvisation over form, Due Feb. 2 (8 points)
- Groove with both hands, Due Feb.14 (12 points)

Module 2: Turnarounds (25 points total)

- C major, chords/bass-notes, DUE Feb. 28 (10 points)
- F major, chords and basslines, DUE March 7 (15 points)

Module 3: Diatonic and non-functional chord progressions in major and minor (25 points total)

- Chord progressions in major and minor keys, DUE March 28 (7 points)
- Mode mixture, DUE April 6 (8 points)
- Grooves: waltz, 2-beat, bossa, bolero, swing, rock, etc., DUE April 13 (10 points)

Module 4: Blue Bossa (25 points total)

- melody/chords, DUE April 27 (12 points)
- chords/bass, DUE May 9 (13 points)

Grade Breakdown

Module 1 (25%)

Module 2 (25%)

Module 3 (25%)

Module 4 (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.

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, 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

**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.