

## Commercial Piano II MUSA 2256 - 001

**Instructor:** Dr. Chris Reyman  
**Contact:** [creyman@utep.edu](mailto:creyman@utep.edu)

### Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30AM-12:30PM and by appointment. Virtual meetings can be scheduled by appointment.

**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 Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- 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
- Use problem solving skills to develop accompaniments for harmonic progressions

### 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 at the piano (intro, ending)

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Module 1: ii V I progressions (25 points total)**

- WEEK 1: ii V I theory and 4-note voicings and guide tones
- WEEK 2: ii V I bass lines, QUIZ #1 (10 points), Wednesday, January 24th
- WEEK 3: ii V I progressions in all 12 keys
- WEEK 4: Performance Exam #1 (15 points), Wednesday, February 7th

#### **Module 2: Jazz Blues and altered dominants (25 points total)**

- WEEK 5: Jazz Blues progression with 4-note voicings
- WEEK 6: Jazz Blues progression with guide tones and bass lines, QUIZ #2 (10 points), Wednesday, February 21st
- WEEK 7: altered dominants
- WEEK 8: Performance Exam #2 (15 points), Wednesday, March 6th

### **SPRING BREAK!!!**

#### **Module 3: Cantaloupe Island (25 points total)**

- WEEK 9: Groove with both hands
- WEEK 10: melody and chords, QUIZ (10 points), Wednesday, March 27th
- WEEK 11: Blues scale improvisation over form
- WEEK 12: Performance Exam #3 (15 points), Wednesday, April 10th

**Module 4:** Minor tonality and mode mixture, Blue Bossa

- WEEK 13: minor tonality and mode mixture, Blue Bossa chords/bass
- WEEK 14: Blue Bossa melody/chords
- WEEK 15: Blue Bossa improvisation and review for Final Exam

**FINAL EXAM:** Monday, May 6, 10:00AM-12:45PM

**Grade Breakdown**

Module 1 (20%)

Module 2 (20%)

Module 3 (25%)

Module 4 (25%)

Attendance/participation (10%)

**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 Date:**

Bowling with Bolling, CD release concert with Chris Reyman, Jesus Apodaca, Andy Smith and special guest, Jim Shearer.

Wednesday, February 7th

7:30PM

Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall