

Commercial Piano II

21931 - MUSA 2256 - 001

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman

Office: FFA 133

Contact: 747-7805, creyman@utep.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-1:30pm, Wednesdays 1:30-2:30pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-4 pm

*Please let me if you'd like to meet (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: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30pm-5:50pm

Location: Digital Keyboard Lab, FFA

Attendance Policy

Students will be given daily grades for participation in class. If a student is not in class (including excessive tardiness), s/he 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, students 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 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
- chromaticism in improvised lines (enclosures and substitutions)
- melodic minor modes
- learning standards and jazz standards
- arranging tunes
- solo piano arrangement of ballad
- reading lead sheets
- transposition
- reharmonization

Course Activities/Assignments

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

Course Schedule (7 weeks, Spring Break, 8 weeks)

Unit 1:

I Got Rhythm heads by ear
 Follow-the-leader
 In a Mellow Tone
 bass-lines and comping, swing
 LH voicings
 2-Hand voicings
 melody
 chord-scale relationships (patterns for improvisation)

Unit 2:

Follow-the-leader
 hearing/playing root-position chords by ear (major/minor triads, major/minor/dominant 7ths)
 All of Me
 Turnarounds in major
 Transposing chords and melody
 Altered Dominants and Tritone Substitutions
 improvisation

Unit 3: Minor key tonality

Playing by ear
 Nature Boy
 half-diminished chords and minor ii V i's
 bass-lines and comping, bossa
 LH voicings

2-Hand voicings
melody
intros and endings

Grade Breakdown

written and playing assignments (35%)
class participation and preparation (25%)
Unit 1 Performance Exam, Feb. 18 (8%)
Unit 2 Performance Exam, March 31 (12%)
Unit 3 Performance Exam, May 5 (20%)

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.