Commercial Piano II  
21791 - MUSA 2256 - 001

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

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30am-1:00pm, Thursdays 12:00-2:00pm  
*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
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
• 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

Unit 1:  
I Got Rhythm melodies by ear (I Got Rhythm, Lester, Cottontail, Rhythmmaning)  
Rhythm changes progression  
Improvisation (pentatonic scales/mixolydian scales)  
Performance Exam 1: Tuesday, January 31st

Unit 2:  
Autumn Leaves  
minor key tonality  
Intro and ending  
Melody and chords  
Transposing chords and melody  
2-hand comping  
Altered Dominants and Tritone Substitutions  
Improvisation  
Performance Exam 2: Tuesday, February 28th

Unit 3:  
Rhythm Changes  
chords and bass  
Black Orpheus  
intro and ending  
melody and chords  
bass and chords  
improvisation  
Performance Exam 3: Tuesday April 6th
Unit 4: solo piano arrangement
Playing by ear
Nature Boy
  half-diminished chords and minor ii V i’s
  LH voicings
  2-Hand voicings
  melody
  intros and endings
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 9th

Grade Breakdown

written and playing assignments (25%)
class participation and preparation (25%)
Unit 1 Performance Exam, Jan. 31 (8%)
Unit 2 Performance Exam, Feb. 28 (12%)
Unit 3 Performance Exam, Apr. 6 (15%)
Final Exam, May 9 (15%)

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.

IMPORTANT DATES:
March 3: Koan performance at Star City, 7:30pm
March 13-17: Spring Break
April 19: Faculty Recital, 7:30pm