

## **Commercial Piano II**

### **21725 - MUSA 2256 - 001**

**Instructor:** Dr. Chris Reyman  
**Teaching Assistant:** Carlos Barba  
**Office:** FFA 133  
**Contact:** 747-7805, [ceryman@utep.edu](mailto:ceryman@utep.edu)

**Office Hours:** M/W 10:30am-11:30am, T/Th 10:30am-12:00pm

\*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-5:20pm

**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)
- 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**

#### **Unit 1:**

I Got Rhythm melodies by ear (I Got Rhythm, Lester Leaps In, Cottontail, Rhythm-a-ning, Flintstones)  
Cantaloupe Island (groove and improvisation)

#### **Performance Exam 1: Thursday, February 1st**

#### **Unit 2:**

Turnaround in B-flat  
chords/bass-notes  
Jazz Blues in F (Pfrancing)  
melody/chords  
chords/bass-lines  
improvisation

#### **Performance Exam 2: Thursday, March 1st**

#### **Unit 3:**

Turnaround in B-flat  
chords/bass-lines  
Black Orpheus  
intro/ending  
melody/chords  
chords/bass-lines  
improvisation

#### **Performance Exam 3: Tuesday April 3rd**

#### **Unit 4:**

Rhythm Changes  
chords/bass  
melody/chords

improvisation

**Final Exam: Tuesday, May 8th, 4-6:45pm**

### **Grade Breakdown**

written and playing assignments (25%)  
class participation and preparation (25%)  
Unit 1 Performance Exam, February 1st (8%)  
Unit 2 Performance Exam, March 1st (12%)  
Unit 3 Performance Exam, April 3rd (15%)  
Final Exam, May 8th (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](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 DATES:**

Koan Ensemble with Mike Clark, Thursday, March 29, 7:30pm, Star City  
Carlos Barba Master's Recital, Monday, May 7, 7:30pm, Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall