

Commercial Piano II

MUSA 2256 - 001

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman

Office: FFA 133

Contact: 747-7805, creyman@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, melody and improvisation)

Performance Exam 1: Tuesday, February 11th

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 12th

Unit 3:

Turnaround in B-flat

chords/bass-lines

Black Orpheus

melody/chords

chords/bass-lines

improvisation

Performance Exam 3: Tuesday April 14th

Unit 4:

Rhythm Changes

chords/bass

melody/chords

improvisation

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 12th, 4-6:45pm

Grade Breakdown

written and playing assignments (25%)
class participation and preparation (25%)
Unit 1 Performance Exam (8%)
Unit 2 Performance Exam (12%)
Unit 3 Performance Exam (15%)
Final Exam (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.