

Individual Instruction

MUSA 1285

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman

Office: FFA 438

Contact: 747-7805, creyman@utep.edu

Class Time: to be determined

Location: FFA 133

Office Hours:

Due to social distancing regulations, all office hours will be held remotely via ZOOM conference calling app (available for free) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:30AM. You can also email me to set up another time to talk via phone or video call.

Course Objective

To improve student's ability to play piano in commercial and jazz styles.

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 (topics to be selected from this list)

- hearing basic functional tonality (major and minor) and playing (ears to fingers)
- diatonic chords in major and minor keys: major 7th, minor 7th, half-diminished, fully diminished
- secondary dominants and closely related keys
- rootless 9th chord voicing and 3/7 guide-tones
- arranging tunes
- reading lead sheets
- transposition
- reharmonization
- basic accompaniment for melody instrument
- improvising (bass lines and melody lines)
- improvisation over tonal chord progressions
- chromaticism in improvised lines (enclosures and substitutions)
- blues (form, melody, variations and voicings)
- ii- V I harmony (major/Ionian, minor/Dorian and dominant/Mixolydian)
- turnarounds
- tritone substitution
- extended tertian harmony and alterations
- learning jazz blues, standards and jazz standards

Possible Course Activities

- ear training exercises (ears-to-fingers skills)
- playing assignments, including performing for Piano Area Recital
- listening assignments
- theory analysis
- comping, improvising and walking bass lines over jazz harmonies
- transcribing, notating lead sheet and performing commercial/pop songs
- reading lead sheets
- arranging tunes

Attendance Policy

Lessons that are missed without prior notification (email or phone call/text before the scheduled lesson time) will have an adverse effect on the student's grade.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated for each individual lesson, as well as an end of the semester jury. Other assignments may include: performance reviews, listening assignments, transcription projects and masterclasses.

Area and Departmental Recitals Attendance Policy

1. All students enrolled in Applied Lessons must attend a minimum of twelve (12) Area and Departmental which take place every Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the Department of Music. **Failing to attend twelve (12) required recitals will result in lowering Applied Lessons' final grade by one letter.**
2. Make up absences are accomplished by attending UTEP Music Department concerts and recitals. Non-University recitals such as El Paso Music Forum, El Paso Symphony, El Paso Wind Symphony, and Pro-Musica as well as any other performances given by our faculty and guests will be accepted.
3. To receive credit for the make-up, a student must attend a music event. The program must be signed by a music faculty member who attended the same event. The program must be brought to the Music Office to record the attendance. Student name and ID# must be on the program. Without this information students will not receive credit.
4. It is the student's responsibility to turn in the signed programs to the main office by 5 p.m. on Friday's Finals week . There will be no exceptions.
5. Students must sign the makeup sheet every time they turn in a program. At the end, the office must have both, the program with the student's information and their signature matching the date. There will be no exceptions.
6. Please notice: When a single area recital is cancelled, students will need to replace the cancelled recital by either going to a different area recital held at the same time or turning in a makeup recital.
7. At the end of the semester, all students will have the same number of expected recitals.

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.

**The content of this course is subject to change at any time. I will be adjusting the course to fit your particular needs and interests. If anything changes in how I will evaluate you, I will let you know as soon as I can.