

INDEPENDENT STUDY
MUST 4212
Commercial Arranging, Analysis and Composition III
MUST 3263

Instructor: Dr. Chris Reyman

Office: FFA 437

Contact: 747-7805, cereyman@utep.edu

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00am-8:50am

Location: Prospect Hall Room 308

Office Hours:

Monday/Wednesday 11:30AM-12:00PM, Tuesdays/Thursdays 9AM

*Please let me know 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!

Required Materials:

- staff paper
- ability to listen to music while at a piano/keyboard
- access to music notation software (free versions available)
- USB drive or external hard drive to back-up projects

Attendance Policy

Students will be given daily grades for participation and progress in class. If a student is not in class (including tardiness), they will not receive credit for that class period. Of course, you will be excused for university-related events as long as they are approved by me at least two weeks in advance via email correspondence. **DO NOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE SICK.** Each student will be given 3 excused absences due to illness; further absences can be made up on a case by case basis. Please stay in communication with me when you miss class for any reason.

Course Description

The application of commercial theory, styles, notation, arranging and composition through listening, transcribing, analysis and arranging/composition projects.

Course Goals

- Project-based learning

- Develop musical skills through listening, transcribing and analysis
- Develop an understanding of music theory and practice in an historical and cultural context
- Develop creative musical skills within a collaborative environment
- Apply practices of tonal harmony to commercial and jazz harmony, melody and form
- Develop arranging-composing-production skills (ranges, timbre, transpositions, clefs, conventions and peculiarities) of the following instruments: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass and drums
- Gain familiarity with conventional notation methods: chord symbols, Nashville Numbers, manuscript, etc.
- Gain familiarity of notation software
- Gain familiarity of sequencing and composing music for media using DAW

Course Overview

- vertical sonorities and voice leading
- Notation software
- Mode mixture
- Sequencing software
- Composing music for media
- Individual composition/arranging assignments

Tentative Schedule

Week 1-3: Let's get started

Create something new (10pts), **Due Sept. 5 (8AM)**

- 30 second (approximately) "proof-of-concept" music created on/for your instrument with you as primary performer
- Must be notated (chord sheet, lyrics, score), but may contain improvised elements
- Present as media project in some form

Transcribe melody/theme from film/game/media (at least 16 measures, or 30 seconds). Notate in lead sheet format with analysis of salient features. Why is this a good example of a composition for this medium? (10pts) **Due Sept. 7 (8AM)**

Melody/harmony composition (10pts), **due Sept. 12 (8AM)**

Compose 5 16-measure melodies and chord symbols with a clear formal structure using a wide variety of harmonic content with a tonal center, though not simply diatonic. Notate in lead sheet format. Select your favorite melody and send only that melody to me to grade and share with the class.

Week 4-7: Project I, compose a theme

Compose and arrange a 1-minute looping composition for string quartet (2 violins, viola, cello). Feel free to use the melody you composed last week as a starting point.

- Create an overall form with repeated material (AABA, ABAC), but keep in mind that the

track will loop an undetermined amount of times.

- Sketch a handwritten draft of arrangement (5pts), **DUE Sept. 19 (8AM)**
- Draft of score in electronic notation program (5pts), **DUE Sept. 28 (8AM)**
- Final score, separated parts and audio file (15pts) **DUE Oct. 10 (8AM)**

Resources:

[https://wiki.youngcomposers.com/Orchestration: Introduction to Strings](https://wiki.youngcomposers.com/Orchestration:_Introduction_to_Strings)

In particular note the TUNING and GENERAL RANGES of the *violin*, *viola* and *cello* (also called violoncello) and NOTATION OF THE STRING SECTION

[https://wiki.youngcomposers.com/Orchestration: Techniques of Strings - Part I](https://wiki.youngcomposers.com/Orchestration:_Techniques_of_Strings_-_Part_I) In particular BOWING, PHRASE MARKINGS and ARTICULATIONS (legato, staccato, tremolo and pizzicato)

Week 8-15 Music for Media Project (30pts), DUE Dec. 7 (8AM)

Compose, record, mix and master a 2 minute looping audio track fitting the theme (more info will be given in class). You may use any combination of recorded audio, digital and synthesized sounds, and samples.

You may approach this primarily as a composition, but you can also include elements of sound design and music production techniques.

Use your instrument and music elements you are familiar with to give your final product a distinct quality that only you could create.

- Concept, **DUE Oct. 17 (8AM)**
- Pencil/paper sketch of preliminary ideas (any combination of written notation, video or audio), **DUE Oct. 26 (8AM)**
- Digital-audio draft of project **DUE Nov. 7 (8AM)**
- Rough mix of project **DUE Nov. 21 (8AM)**
- **Final Draft and mix/master DUE Dec. Dec. 7 (8AM)**

Turn in a high quality audio file in mp3 or WAV format and a PDF of the score and parts of individual instruments that were recorded.

Here is the rubric for each project:

NOTATION

rehearsal letters/double bars:

format:

neat/readable:

THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE

harmony:

melody:

rhythm:

ORCHESTRATION

transposition:

ranges:

writing for each instrument:

AESTHETIC

interest:

quality:

musicality:

RECORDING

sound quality:

performance:

format:

Grade Breakdown

Semester Assignments and Projects 60%

Final Project 40%

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.

Required Attendance

October 10, 2023, 7:30PM, Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
Jazz Band concert

November 15, 2023, 7:30PM, Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
UTEP Orchestra concert, featuring The OceanMaker with filmscore by Chris Reyman

December 9, 2023, 7:30PM, Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall
Commercial Music Ensemble Recital

**I want this class to be beneficial to you individually. 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.