

Creative Arts Department - Levelland

Syllabus

Course Title: MUSC 1313, Commercial Music Theory I, (3:3:0), Prerequisite: MUSI 1301

Instructor: Ed Marsh

Office: CB 110 **Office Hours:** As posted **Office Telephone:** (806) 894-9611, ext. 2274 - voice-mail configured. **E-mail:** <mailto:emarsh@spc.cc.tx.us>

Office Hours: As posted

South Plains College Improves Each Student's Life

I. General Course Information:

A. Description: This course is an introduction to chord progressions, song forms, and harmonic techniques used in commercial music. Topics include modern chord notation and chord voicings.

Instructor's Note: This course provides a view of modern musical style with attention to the techniques by which musicians arrange the basic elements of music. Topics include key, tonality, melody, harmony, and bass. Students are guided in the use of critical thinking skills to proceed from theoretical understanding to practical employment of techniques (such as two- and three-part vocal harmonization, specific stylistic rhythm-section textures, and the construction of useful charts and sheet-music) which enhance the performance process.

B. Course Learning Outcomes: Through this course the student will become knowledgeable in:

- scales, keys, & modes
- modern chord symbols & structure, chord substitution
- melodic and accompaniment harmonizing techniques
- musical notation

C. Course Competencies: MUSC 1313 is a college level theory course, it is not an introductory course. Students with no previous theory training should contact their advisor or the instructor to determine whether they might need a music fundamentals course (which SPC offers each semester). Many music students at SPC begin by taking MUSI 1301.

Computer-Assisted Learning - South Plains College has and will continue to provide up-to-date computer assisted music labs. Students will be required to develop a moderate degree of skill using word-processing and music notation software on the personal computer (PC). Students will be given assignments in pertinent areas during the semester, and are responsible for timely completion of this work. The ear-training lab will have published hours and rules for student use. For further information, contact your instructor.

D. Academic Integrity: It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a

most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog, pg.22-23, regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism (see "Academic Integrity" as well as "Student Conduct" sections).

E. **SCANS COMPETENCIES:** C-1, C-3, C-5, C-6, C-7, C-8, C-18, C-19.

FOUNDATION SKILLS: F-1, F-2, F-5, F-6, F-7, F-8, F-9, F-10, F-11, F-12, F-13, F-16

F. **Verification of Workplace Competencies:** Successful completion of this course will equip the student with many of the skills necessary to complete the capstone experience presented at the end of the second semester of study for certificate candidates and at the end of the fourth semester of study for degree candidates.

II. Specific Course/Instructor Requirements:

A. **Textbook and Other Materials:** **There is no text book for this course.** Students are encouraged to keep thorough notes of class lectures, diagrams, examples, and exercises. Students should bring music manuscript and conventional notebook paper, pen, & pencil to each class session.

Attendance Policy:

Good attendance is critical in the world of work. It is the cornerstone of academic success. For these reasons, attendance is a grade in this class. For each unexcused absence, 3 points will be subtracted from the overall average. Tardiness may result in 1 point deducted. The acceptability of each excuse is solely at the discretion of the teacher.

If you are no longer attending class, it is your responsibility to drop the course. The instructor may drop a student after three consecutive unexcused absences; but is not required to do so. If the instructor does not drop you, and you do not drop, you will receive the grade of F.

Absence due to illness –

A student with an infectious disease (such as Strep, or Flu) should not attend class. If a student is staying home due to illness, he/she should contact the teacher via phone or email. Every reasonable attempt will be made to help students who must miss class due to severe illness.

Class Room Behavior-

Disruptive disrespectful behavior towards students or the instructor will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary measures. It is important that all students maintain professional attitudes and actions at all times. Cell phones, ipods, and other electronic devices must be silenced or off before class begins and may be taken by the instructor if necessary. Failure to comply with any classroom policy may result in the student's removal from class.

Assignment Policy -

All assignments are to be submitted for grading at the time specified. Assignments missed due to absence may be excused, but late assignments will not be accepted.

Students may be asked to turn in computer progress reports at assigned times.

Failure to submit progress reports in a timely fashion may result in a grading penalty (at the discretion of the instructor). Failure to complete the assigned material may result in the student being given a final grade of "Incomplete" for the course.

Improper use of electronic devices during class may result in a "Technical" absence: In this case, the student may be marked absent for the day and/or asked to leave for the day.

Grading Policy/Procedure:

Average of four test scores (minus attendance penalties – see above) = 75% of Grade
Average of homework, classwork, and outside assignments (also as above) = 25% of Grade

Homework, classwork, and outside assignments are very important. Failure to submit these assignments due to absence may be excused by the instructor, but may or may not be accepted late.

Grades are assigned as follows: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59

The weighing and valuation of test questions lies at the discretion of the instructor.

B. Special Requirements: This course is intended to be taken concurrently with **MUSC 1311, Commercial Music Sight Singing & Ear Training I**. Due to this “companion” course, students are expected to be familiar with some material covered in that course.

III. Course Outline:

Outline by Topic:

Basics	Harmony	Arranging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intervals • Scales • Triads • Seventh Chords 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chord Functions • Chord Extensions • Chord Voicing • Voice Leading • Modulation • Chord Substitution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charting • Chord Symbols • Form, Repeats, and Format • Swing-style • Transposing

IV. Accommodations

South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age (SPC Equal Opportunity Policy--General Catalog).

V. Disabilities

A student who enrolls in this class that may need classroom accommodations is strongly encouraged to schedule an intake interview with the special services department before enrolling in this class or prior to the add/drop date for this semester.

Levelland Campus

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office in the Student Health & Wellness Office, 806-716-2577.

VI. Diversity

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

VII. Injury Or Illness Addendum

In the event that you are injured or are ill, creating a situation where you cannot perform for an extended period, it is agreed that the student will drop this course if the instructor deems it appropriate.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Chris Straface, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email cstraface@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at:

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.