

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus
MUIN 32002 Commercial Music Arranging

Credit Hours: 2

Lecture Hours: 2

Prerequisite: Music major with junior standing and MUTH 28103 Music Theory IV

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Designed to provide students with the fundamental techniques necessary for writing jazz and pop music arrangements. Course topics include theoretical principles, melody, rhythm, texture, arranging techniques, analysis, chord types and relationships, and orchestration.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate through discussion and writing a knowledge of the musical elements intrinsic to commercial music arrangements.
2. Listen to and aurally recognize commercial music techniques and orchestral devices.
3. Analyze commercial music excerpts and scores, and demonstrate a knowledge of arranging techniques.
4. Write commercial music arrangements for various mediums and genres.

B. University Learning Outcomes

MUIN 32002 Commercial Music Arranging enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Students will draw conclusions and/or solve problems using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of musical performance.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently using proper musical terminology; personal

expression within the context of a musical performance.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes whether in musical research, presentation, or performance.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate and reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Contemporary chord qualities and symbols
- B. Scales
- C. Harmonic progressions
- D. Instrument transposition and range
- E. Score preparation and analysis
- F. Form
- G. Re-harmonization
- H. Arranging techniques
- I. Line writing
- J. Woodwind/brass orchestration
- K. Stylistic considerations
- L. Genres and mediums