

RIM 3450: Advanced Commercial Musicianship (Spring 2023)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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| <i>Instructor</i> | <i>E-mail</i> | <i>Phone</i> | <i>Office Hours (Bragg 222)</i> |
| • Trevor de Clercq | tdeclercq@mtsu.edu | (615) 898-5821 | Tues / Thurs, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and by appointment |

COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES

This course covers advanced principles of music within the context of contemporary commercial music styles. Aural and written skills will be developed through listening, transcription, and keyboard exercises. Theory topics will include: chord extensions, modes and mixture, applied chords, chord substitution, sixteenth-note syncopation in simple meters, and sixteenth-note divisions in compound meter. Prerequisites: RIM 1230 or equivalent.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

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- Access to a polyphonic MIDI Keyboard Controller or piano with at least 32 keys.
 - Access to high-quality headphones or speakers (with minimum 30 Hz - 16 kHz frequency response).
 - Access to a laptop or phone with audio and video recording capability.

ASSESSMENT

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| Comprehension Exercises: | 10% | <u>Passing Grades:</u> | <u>Not Passing Grades:</u> |
| Online Practice: | 20% | 90 – 100% = A | 70 – 72% = C– |
| Proficiencies: | 20% | 87 – 89% = B+ | 67 – 69% = D+ |
| Tests (3): | 30% | 83 – 86% = B | 63 – 66% = D |
| Final Exam: | 20% | 80 – 82% = B– | 60 – 62% = D– |
| | | 77 – 79% = C+ | 0 – 59% = F |
| | | 73 – 76% = C | |

Note: If you are using your smartphone to take pictures of your Comprehension Exercises, I recommend you download the app called “CamScanner” for an easy way to convert your photos into a single PDF file.

ATTENDANCE

Students should not attend class if they are ill, have any symptoms of COVID-19, or have tested positive for COVID-19. See <https://mtsu.edu/coronavirus/> for the latest MTSU policies on COVID-19.

To be considered an excused absence (whether due to illness or otherwise), a student must notify their instructor about the absence (via e-mail or phone) BEFORE the class period they will be absent. Otherwise, the absence will be unexcused. Two unexcused late arrivals or early exits count as an unexcused absence.

For each unexcused absence after three, 2% will be deducted from the student’s overall grade. Cell phones and other personal electronic devices such as laptop computers must be turned off during class. Use of personal electronic equipment during class counts as an unexcused absence.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS for DISABILITIES

Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the [Disability & Access Center \(DAC\)](#) website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or dacemail@mtsu.edu.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please review the information on [Academic Integrity and Misconduct](#). Collaboration is forbidden on tests and homework, unless clearly specified otherwise. We expect students to present original work for all academic assignments turned in for credit and appropriately credit all sources used. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions the instructor, given a case of academic misconduct, has the authority to assign an “F” or zero for an activity or the course. Students guilty of plagiarism will be immediately reported to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. **Plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one’s own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.
2. **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. It also includes purchasing assignments or paying another person to complete a course for you.
3. **Fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Incomplete grades are given rarely and only in extenuating circumstances. Page 56 of the [MTSU Undergraduate Catalog](#) states: “The grade I indicates that the student has not completed all course requirements because of illness or other uncontrollable circumstances, especially those which occur toward the end of the term. Mere failure to make up work or turn in required work on time does not provide the basis for the grade of I unless extenuating circumstances noted above are present for reasons acceptable to the instructor.”

PARTICIPATION

Masking

All students are strongly encouraged to be masked and observe appropriate six-foot minimum social distancing while in class whenever possible. Masks are defined as disposable single-use paper masks, cloth face coverings with ear loops or ties, balaclavas, gaiters, and bandanas that cover the nose and mouth.

Course Ground Rules

All students in this course are expected to learn how to navigate in the learning management system, address technical problems immediately, and be respectful to their instructor and peers. University [Policy 540 Student Conduct](#) stipulates that appropriate behavior, language, and attire are required both in person and online.

Class Participation

Student participation is required in all aspects of the course. Students are expected to log into the course a *minimum* of one time per week per class meeting, adhere to all due dates and deadlines as listed in your course calendar, and communicate with the instructor as a learning resource.

Email

Per the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), all course communication will be conducted using MTSU email. Faculty will not respond to student emails via a non-institutional assigned email.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Technical Support

[D2L Resources](#) are available to MTSU Online Students. You can also find help for the basic D2L functions used most often directly in your D2L course under the D2L Help for Students module. Students who experience technical problems including, but not limited to, logging into their course, timing out of their course, using the course web site tools, are encouraged to contact the [MTSU Help Desk](#) online (24/7) or at 1-615-898-5345.

Grade Appeals

[University Policy 313, Student Grade Appeals](#), provides an avenue for MTSU students to appeal a final course grade in cases in which the student alleges that unethical or unprofessional actions by the instructor and/or grading inequities improperly impacted the final grade.

Free Tutoring

The Office of Student Success encourages all students to take advantage of the free campus tutoring. Visit their website at <https://www.mtsu.edu/studentsuccess/tutoring.php>.

Title IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or been the victim of sexual assault should contact a Title IX/Deputy Coordinator at 615-898- 2185 or 615-898-2750 for assistance or review [MTSU's Title IX website](#) for resources. MTSU faculty are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are legally obligated to share reported incidents with the University's Title IX coordinator.

Hope (Lottery) Scholarship Information

To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you may not be able to regain eligibility at a later time. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your [Lottery Statement of Understanding form](#) or contact your [MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor](#).

Well-Being

As a college student, you may experience a range of challenges and issues that can interfere with your physical and mental well-being, hinder your academic experience, and negatively impact your daily life. Some of these experiences may include overwhelming depression/sadness, anxiety, high levels of stress, use of alcohol/drugs, difficulty sleeping, difficulty concentrating, and/or loss of motivation. If you or any of your classmates are experiencing these issues, it is important to reach out and ask for help. Discuss your situation with a friend, a family member, your instructor, or an academic advisor. Remember: Everyone struggles. It's okay to talk about it. Ask for help. YOU ARE NOT ALONE! For assistance contact MTSU Counseling Services, KUC 326S, 615-898-2670 (free for students) or MTSU Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, Miller Education Center, 503 East Bell Street, Suite 100, Murfreesboro, TN, 615-898-2271 (Free for students and staff).
