

# RIM 3450: Advanced Commercial Musicianship (Fall 2024)

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

<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	Mon / Wed / Fri, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm 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 are developed through listening, singing, transcription, improvisation, and keyboard exercises. Topics include: extended and altered chords, modes and mixture, applied chords, chord substitution, advanced cross-rhythms, and asymmetrical meters. Prerequisites: RIM 1230 or equivalent.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

- 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.

## OPTIONAL TEXTBOOK

- de Clercq, Trevor. 2024. *The Practice of Popular Music: Understanding Harmony, Rhythm, Melody, and Form in Commercial Songwriting*. New York: Routledge.

## ASSESSMENT

D2L Dropbox Homework:	15%	<u>Passing Grades:</u>	<u>Not Passing Grades:</u>
D2L Quizzes:	15%	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	

With the exception of Proficiency assignments, late homework will not be accepted.

## ATTENDANCE

This is an in-person, on-ground class; it is not an online, remote, or hybrid class. Regular attendance is expected. Attendance affects a student's final course grade in the following ways:

0 – 2 absences	:	Three bonus points will be added to the student's overall course grade
3 – 5 absences	:	No change in the student's overall course grade
6 – 8 absences	:	The highest grade a student can earn in the course overall is a B+
9 – 11 absences	:	The highest grade a student can earn in the course overall is a B
12 – 14 absences	:	The highest grade a student can earn in the course overall is a B–
15 – 17 absences	:	The highest grade a student can earn in the course overall is a C+
18 or more absences	:	The highest grade a student can earn in the course overall is a C

There is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences. Three late arrivals or early exits count as a full absence. Extenuating circumstances will need to be authorized through the DAC (discussed below).

Cell phones and other personal electronic devices such as laptop computers must be turned off during class. Unauthorized use of personal electronic equipment during class counts as a full unexcused absence.

**To be clear:** The highest grades listed above are not deductions to a student's overall grade but rather impose limits on the highest possible letter grade that can be earned. For example, if a student's raw overall course grade is a 94% and they have missed 10 days of class, that student will be given a B in the course. If a student's raw overall course grade is an 84% and they have missed 10 days of class, that student will also be given a B in the course. If a student's raw overall course grade is a 74% and they have missed 10 days of class, that student will be given a C in the course.

## **REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS for DISABILITIES**

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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](mailto:dacemail@mtsu.edu).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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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.

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.

Going online and using information without proper citation, copying parts of other students' work, creating information to establish credibility, or using someone else's thoughts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment is academic misconduct. If you have a question about an assignment, please ask for clarification. All cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Director of Academic Integrity and may result in failure on the test/assignment or for the course. When students participate in behavior that is considered to be academic misconduct, the value of their education and that of their classmates is reduced, and their academic careers are jeopardized.

## **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

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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**

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### **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.

**Communication**

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**

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**Technical Support**

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. Tutoring is available in over 200 hundred courses in subjects such as biology, history, computer information systems, physics, math, economics, recording industry, study skills/learning strategies, and many more. Visit their website at <https://www.mtsu.edu/studentssuccess/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**

In college, 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).