Music 361/Section 0459 SPRING/2015
“Commercial Piano Techniques”
MW 12:10 p.m. – 1:35 p.m. CH 205

**Instructor:** Mr. David Stahl  
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Music office Ext. 2880  
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**Text:** Essentials of JAZZ THEORY (complete) by Shelton Berg, published by Alfred,  
manuscript paper  
*faculty.lacitycollege.edu/stahldq* website has all the material for handouts and info

**Description and Objectives:** The intermediate piano student will be introduced to the jazz and pop oriented standard repertory of songs. Chord voicings, comping chords and rhythms, the blues, the walking bass and basic improvisation will be covered, along with playing and writing simple arrangements from and for a lead sheet. The basic concepts of jazz harmony and some technical studies will complete the course.

*The SLO (Student Learning Outcome) for this class are:* Arrange a commercial song with stylistically appropriate bass line and chords **AND** arrange a commercial song with improvisational solos.

**Written work:** There are worksheets in the text that are to be done throughout the semester.

**Drills:** There will be exercises and scales taught which are to be played at the keyboard. These will reinforce the student’s technical ability to execute the songs and improvisations in the repertoire.

**Repertoire:** There will be two class performances during the semester, preferably from memory, for the mid-term and for the final. There will be suggested repertoire and/or the student can suggest his own ideas for repertoire, but they must be approved by the instructor.

The class is repeatable three times. Returning students will cover more complex and new materials.

Grading: The student will be expected to perform for the mid term and for the final. The student will be expected to complete all of the written worksheet assignments. The student will be expected to adequately perform the keyboard drills. Absences and being tardy can lower your grade. The following gives a basis for the grading.

2000 total points  
A: at least 1800 points  
B: at least 1600 points  
C: at least 1400 points  
D: at least 1200 points

The final exam will be on Wednesday June 3, 2015; 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in CH 205

Last day to add: 2/21, Drop w/o fee or a “W”: 2/22, with a ‘W’: 5/10