

Syllabus

MUS 108G, Beginning Guitar – Spring 2017

Nicholas Lambson, Instructor

Section 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00 – 12:50

Section 2: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 1:50

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Office hours will be announced to the class as soon as times are established. When announced, students should write this information in the space provided here:

Course description:

Class instruction on guitar for beginners. There is no pre-requisite for this course and no previous experience is required. This class will cover a wide variety of skills related to playing the guitar. Basic chords, scales, and songs/pieces will be learned through standard music notation and tablature. Playing technique will be addressed for ease of playing and to avoid injury; students should contact the instructor immediately regarding any soreness or injury that is related to or affecting guitar playing. While the majority of class time will be spent playing as a large group, some class sessions will be spent learning to play and small groups. The fundamentals of music theory will be studied and applied to the instrument. Critical listening skills will be developed along with strategies for assessing and discussing music.

This course may be repeated once. The format of this course is activity, with some lecture, and discussion. This course fulfills Area C requirements.

Required and recommended texts, readers, or other reading materials for this course include:

- Required: *Guitar School Volume 1*, Jerry Snyder (CD optional).
- Highly Recommended: *Guitar Note Speller*, Aaron Shearer.
- Optional: *Yousician*

Tentative Course calendar:

- Midterm Playing Evaluation: Week of March 6th
- Written Final Exam: Thursday, May 4th
- Concert Report Due: Monday, May 8th by the end of the day, via Moodle
- Final Playing Evaluation:
 - Section 1: Thursday, May 11th, 12:40 – 2:30
 - Section 2: Tuesday, May 9th, 12:40 – 2:30
- HSU Guitar Ensemble Concert: Friday, April 14th at 8pm in Fulkerson Recital Hall
- HSU Guitar Studio Concerts: Friday, March 3rd at 5pm April 23rd at 2pm.
- HSU Events Calendar: www.humboldt.edu/events for academic and concert information.

Subject to change with fair notice.

Other necessary equipment/materials/fees:

- Students must have their own steel string acoustic or nylon string folk/classical guitars. Guitars are not available to rent or lend. Feel free to consult the instructor if you have questions about purchasing a new guitar, or if you have any questions about a guitar that you already have.
- Students will need to put on a new set of strings for the semester, which can be done at any local music shop. If you would like to try it yourself, note that you cannot put nylon strings on a guitar designed for steel strings, and you cannot put steel strings on a guitar design for nylon strings - this can ruin the instrument!
- Students will need to have an electronic tuner for use at home and in class.
- A metronome, footstool, and a music stand are recommended.
- Lockers are usually not available.

Guitar-related Supplies:

- Local Music Shops: Wildwood, Redwood Music/Fortuna Music Mart, Mantova's
- Online Retailers: Stringsbyemail, Musiciansfriend, GuitarCenter, Amazon
- Strings: D'Addario, especially for nylon. Normal or light tension for nylon, medium or light gauge for steel strings
- Tuners: Clip-on tuners are highly recommended! These are best for noisy environments.
- Tablature Websites: Songsterr (paid), UltimateGuitar (online and app), 911Tabs
- Music Apps: Yousician, free tuners, metronomes, tab, and recording apps available. Read reviews! Phone mics problematic.
- ErgoPlay: a highly recommended accessory for guitar technique, otherwise a footstool is recommended

Course Requirements:

Attendance and participation, 30 minutes of daily practice, worksheets, two playing evaluations, a written final, and a concert report. Guidelines for that report will be distributed later in the semester.

Grading information:

- 35% Attendance and class participation
- 15% Midterm playing evaluation
- 15% Final playing evaluation
- 15% Written final exam
- 10% Concert Report
- 10% Worksheets

Grades are calculated using a 100-point scale. Missed worksheets, playing exams, and written exams cannot be made up without significant cause; documentation may be required. Students

may miss three classes unexcused; then the attendance portion of the grade is lowered one full letter.

This course explicitly contributes to students' acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to University Learning Outcomes:

Humboldt State University Music Department Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music – rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
2. Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and an ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
3. Students will demonstrate ability in performing areas appropriate to the student's needs, interests, and degree path.
4. Students will demonstrate effective English writing skills.

Humboldt State University Student Learning Outcomes:

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

- effective communication through written and oral modes.
- critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues
- competence in a major area of study.
- appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities and viewpoints.

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- succeed in their chosen careers.
- take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.
- pursue social justice, promote environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in their workplaces and communities.

Area C - Arts and Humanities Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this requirement, students will:

1. apply discipline-specific vocabulary and central discipline-specific concepts and principles to a specific instance, literary work or artistic creation.
2. respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and will differentiate between emotional and intellectual responses.
3. explain the nature and scope of the perspectives and contributions found in a particular discipline within the Arts and Humanities as related to the human experience, both individually (theirs) and collectively.
4. demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual, imaginative, and cultural elements involved in the creative arts through their (or, "as a result of their") participation in and

study of drama, music, studio art and/or creative writing.

Policies:

Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding academic honesty. For more information, visit: [Academic Honesty Policy](#) or [HSU Catalog](#)

Students with Disabilities:

Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center in House 71, 826-4678 (voice) or 826-5392 (TDD). Some accommodations may take up to several weeks to arrange. [Student Disability Resource Center](#)

Add/Drop policy:

Students are responsible for knowing the University policy, procedures, and schedule for dropping or adding classes. [Schedule Adjustments \(Adding or Dropping\)](#)

Emergency evacuation:

Please review the evacuation plan for the classroom (posted on the orange signs) , and review [Campus Emergency Preparedness](#)
http://studentaffairs.humboldt.edu/emergencyops/campus_emergency_preparedness.php for information on campus Emergency Procedures. During an emergency, information can be found campus conditions at: 826-INFO or [Emergency Conditions](#)

Attendance and disruptive behavior:

Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding attendance and disruptive behavior: [Class Attendance and Disruptive Behavior](#)