

Syllabus

MUS 107/407 Chamber Music: Guitar – Fall 2017

Nicholas Lambson, Instructor

Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:50pm

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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:

Study and weekly rehearsals of ensemble repertoire. Each semester's repertoire and groups will vary. Students will play in small ensembles (e.g. duets, trios, quartets, etc.) and/or large ensemble groups incorporating most or all of the students in the class.

Students will usually perform a work with another guitarist or group of guitarists; however, the student may perform with vocalists and other instrumentalists.

This course fulfills Area C requirements.

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

Students must provide their own instruments. Nylon string classical guitars must be used for tonal and dynamic balance reasons. However, special arrangements are sometimes made in consultation with the instructor. Students must also have access to a footstool, ErgoPlay, or similar device for use in rehearsals as well as at home. Student should consult the instructor in studio for help with their assigned parts, especially when encountering soreness or pain related to playing guitar or impeding guitar playing. Students should have their own electronic tuners and a metronome, and should plan on two or more new sets of strings per semester; one set for the start of the semester and one set a week before any performance. For specific equipment recommendations, consult the instructor.

Course Requirements:

Ensemble Rehearsals: The ensemble rehearsal schedule will vary each semester depending on the works being performed. The schedule will be announced once groups and repertoire have been finalized, either on an ongoing basis or week by week. Students need to check their email for rehearsal times. Students should complete technical work on their parts as soon as possible to allow for productive group rehearsals, and should ask for extra help with their parts in studio lessons. All ensemble members are required to meet for at least one hour per week of rehearsal outside of the scheduled rehearsal class time and this time must be confirmed with the instructor. Attendance is critical to the success of the group, both in class and in outside rehearsals.

Midterm Performances: Students will perform for one another in class at least once during the semester, most likely around midterms. Students should plan on attending the full class session as well as two additional hours afterwards.

Dress Rehearsals: A dress rehearsal will take place roughly two weeks before the main performance in which all students will attend the full class meeting time as well as two additional hours afterwards. Students may also be required to attend extra rehearsals prior to the performance and will be scheduled as needed. Students do not need to “dress” up in their concert attire for our dress rehearsal.

Guitar Ensemble Concert: All students must perform with their ensemble group in the Guitar Ensemble concert. Additional performance opportunities are encouraged. This performance is equivalent to the final exam. Students who do not perform in the final performance will fail the course. All students must have “concert black” attire. No jeans, sneakers, t-shirts, etc. Khakis or slacks with a button-up-the-front shirt or a nice sweater, with black dress shoes. Occasionally, we will decide to wear something else, but if no arrangements have been made, wear black.

Repertoire Nights and Miscellaneous Studio Functions: The guitar studio frequently has extra-curricular functions designed to immerse each student in the various applications of becoming a fine musician and guitarist. These include Repertoire Nights, an informal performance opportunity for and by the studio guitarists, as well as films, workshops, and more. These are not required of any ensemble students, though they are strongly encouraged.

Concert Attendance: All music majors are required to attend six concerts during the semester.

Repertoire Summary: To gain a deeper understanding of their repertoire, students will research and discuss at least one piece of repertoire from their studies each semester in a 300 to 500 word written assignment. Topics may include style, emotional content (be prepared to qualify your statements), nationality, time period, etc. If it is relevant, you may wish to include other comparable works to aid in your discussion, such as another Gigue by the same composer or a contemporary figure. This paper is similar in content to the program notes of a recital, or the liner notes of a recording.

Recording Report: Students are required to listen to or watch performances relevant to their assigned repertoire for this class, including at least two professional level recordings. The paper should then provide a 300 to 500 word analysis of the performances in regard to interpretation, technical skill, style, unusual features, and any similarities or differences between the different recordings.

This paper differs from the Repertoire Summary, which discusses the piece in a musical and historical context. The Recording Report will focus on the performance and interpretation of a piece.

Performance Review: All students must submit a 300 to 500 word course summary. Students will review their performance and experiences over the course of the semester, summarizing the various challenges and successes they encountered. This assignment’s due date is TBA, but it usually follows the class viewing of the recording.

Tentative Course Calendar:

- Recording Report Due: Tuesday, September 19th
- Repertoire Summary Due: Tuesday, September 26th
- Midterm Performance: Tuesday, October 10th
- Dress Rehearsal: TBD. Possibly Sunday November 5th at 4pm
- Ensemble Concert: Sunday, November 12th in Fulkerson
- Ensemble Video: Tuesday, November 14th
- Performance Review Due: Thursday, November 16th

Dates subject to change with fair notice.

All written assignment are due online via Moodle, to be uploaded by 11:59pm of the due date.

Late written work is subject to a 10 point deduction per day.

Grading information:

- 50% - Rehearsal preparedness and participation
- 25% - Performance
- 15% - Ensemble midterm
- 5% - Recording Report
- 5% - Repertoire Summary
- 5% - Performance Review

Students are expected to prepare for each rehearsal, both in and outside of class. This includes practicing, entering fingerings, taping scores together, etc., as well as a level of professionalism required of member of performing ensembles.

Groups cannot properly rehearse and progress if even one of the members is late or absent, so attendance is critical to the success of the group. Every unexcused class absence will lower your final grade by 10 points. Tardiness will lower the rehearsal portion of your grade 10 points. If you have to be late, or are unable to attend for some reason (i.e. illness) please notify me in advance; in some cases, I may be able to adjust the rehearsal schedule accordingly. Some other absences may be excused with sufficient cause, and documentation may be required.

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

1. Students will be able to perform at least one piece on a recital.
2. Students will demonstrate appropriate skills in rhythmic accuracy, intonation, balance, blend, dynamics, and phrasing.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to diagnose musical problems and implement appropriate solutions.
4. Students will demonstrate understanding of aspects of musical performance that distinguish chamber music from large-group experiences.

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](#)