

Guitar Class Syllabus Fall 2008-2009

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Course Objective:

The purpose of this course is to develop all skills and techniques in guitar playing, applicable to various types of music. Also, to develop a deeper understanding of the history of the guitar and the development of the modern guitar; it's role in music and the importance of music in our daily lives.

Assumptions of students by instructor:

Students have a desire in further developing strong musical skills and abilities with the guitar as a primary concentration and focus.

This class is an ongoing exploration of proper methods, concepts, and techniques in guitar performance. Students of ALL levels will benefit from this class.

Students will be on time for class, tuned, and ready to go. The first 5 (five) minutes of each class period will be for preparation and attendance. Students will own (or rent) their own guitar for in-class and home use.

Preparation for class is essential. I will expect you to keep up, and will make every reasonable attempt to help you do so. An applied (skill) class is not necessarily one for which one can "cram" information. Therefore we will go over, at the first class meeting, tactics that will help you keep pace as the semester progresses.

Students will also need by the first full week of class :

Guitar- A 6-string acoustic guitar, preferably nylon string, but steel string is also fine. Nylon string guitars have less tension, so they are easier to play (and they are somewhat less expensive). Electric guitars are inaudible in the classroom situation.

- * A folder or binder
- * A pencil (NOT a pen)
- * A footstool (semi-optional)
- * An extra set of strings
- * Required: an electronic tuner; an electronic metronome
- * Please keep in mind that a neat and organized folder of class materials is expected to be kept and can be graded accordingly as part of your class participation

Text:

'The Infinite Guitar' by Chris Juergensen

This is a reference manual other materials will be given out or made available for download for you to print at home.

Grading:

All grades will be based on exercises and pieces selected from the text. Due to the active nature of an applied guitar class, students should be prepared to perform in class daily. Many class periods will focus **ONLY** on techniques and concepts.

Grade Scale: Standard (70 or below you fail!)

Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

The emphasis in this class is in getting you to discover the great pleasure of playing a musical instrument. But it's only fun when you make regular progress. Therefore, class grade will be primarily based on participation, effort, and attitude. If you follow through with those things, your improvement will be steady, your periodic performances will go well, and consequently your grade will be good. There will also be one concert report, written quizzes and one final exam covering music vocabulary and theory.

Here's the grading breakdown:

40% class participation
5% concert report
10% written quizzes
15% written final exam
30% two individual playing evaluations -
one at the 3/4 semester mark* and one at
the end of the semester.

About Playing Evaluations- Twice during the semester there will be an evaluation of your progress on the guitar. Unlike written exams, it is not possible to cram for these! It's better to practice only 10 min. a day than 1 hour once a week.

DAILY PARTICIPATION POINTS:

Each member of the class begins the semester with 100 points for participation. Students may lose their daily participation points for tardiness, class disturbance, refusal to participate, missing materials, etc. Lost participation points may not be made up. You may lose up to 5 points each class period.

Exams:

Test and quizzes will be given over technical exercises, select solos, and ensembles, as presented in the textbook or handouts. Assignments: You will be expected to practice exercises in class as well as at home.

Responsibilities: You are a responsible adult in an institution of higher learning; therefore, you are expected to behave accordingly. I do have the option of dropping any student.

General Contract for students of Mr. Esteban Anastasio

General class rules:

(Failure to comply with the following can and will result in disciplinary action)

- You must be inside of the classroom when the bell rings.
- You may not leave the classroom until the bell rings.
- Keep the room clean and organized (everything has a place)
- You will have your materials ready and be in your seat immediately after entering the class room.
- Some class time will be used for listening to some of the greatest music ever written. You must learn to be an active listener.
- When you are in your own little world, making unwanted noise, talking to others without permission, being disrespectful, doing other class work, or anything else that I don't like, this is known as 'outside of class time' this is a very bad place. You lack respect and discipline when you are 'outside of class time' you will and must be punished.
- When you are listening you must not be 'outside of class time'. Please do not doodle, talk, or disrespect the class in any way. Enjoy the music!
- Talking 'outside of class time' is not permitted. This means only speak when you are asked to do so.
- Always bring your materials to class.
- You will read and know these rules and follow them faithfully and we will all be happy.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND DEPARTMENT POLICIES PROHIBIT THE USE OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE IN THE CLASSROOM SPACE. PLEASE REFRAIN FROM BRINGING THESE ITEMS TO CLASS.

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Overview or different levels of the class.

The study of the guitar is a discipline. We must all work hard and consistently to make things happen. Constant movement towards technical goals and song repertoire is essential to learning any musical instrument. Focused and concentrated practice on a daily basis is the best way to achieve your personal goals as well as meet the standards of the class.

Please understand that if you do not meet the basic requirements of the each class level by 3/4 semester mark you will be asked to leave the class. Please be warned once a final

decision is made about you schedule is made it can not be changed. If you are serious about learning the guitar please show it with daily practice and knowing the required materials.

Some Basic Requirement for each class level.

BEGINNING GUITAR LEVEL 1

Course Scope:

This one-year course is designed for students with no previous guitar experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on a beginning level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences. This elective course for high school may be repeated for credit.

Course Goals:

- 1.To develop correct posture and hand position
- 2.To identify the parts of the guitar
- 3.To demonstrate the proper tuning of the guitar by pitch matching
- 4.To understand the history and origin of the guitar
- 5.To learn basic fundamentals of musical notation
- 6.To learn basic chords and single notes in first position
- 7.To learn proper strumming, finger style and flat picking techniques and accompaniments
- 8.To become aware of career opportunities
- 9.To participate in performance and evaluation of music
- 10.To demonstrate basic notating skills

Backward Assessment Model
Level 1 - Beginning Guitar

YEAR ONE - At the completion of year one, students will be able to:

- perform using correct sitting posture and appropriate hand positions
- play a sixteen measure melody composed with eighth notes at a moderate tempo using alternate picking
- play on all six strings in first position
- play melodies in the keys C, Am, G, Em, D, Bm, F and Dm
- have a tonal range which extends to the A above the staff
- play major, minor and dominant seventh chords in first position in the keys of C, G, D, A, Am, E, & Em
- strum rhythms to include whole, half, quarter and eighth notes including simple syncopation
- play power chords using roots on open sixth, fifth and fourth strings
- read and understand symbols indicating up and down strokes
- play arpeggios in a finger-picking style as an accompaniment
- identify and use p-i-m-a
- identify and name the parts of the guitar
- identify basic musical symbols
- tune the guitar by pitch matching

INTERMEDIATE GUITAR

Course Scope:

This one-year course is designed for students who have successfully completed the skills outlined in the Beginning Guitar syllabus. This course includes further development of the skills necessary to become independent as a guitarist. This course emphasizes the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability and skills inherent to performance. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on an intermediate level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences. A progression of technical proficiency is expected.

Course Goals:

11. To develop skills playing in fifth position in the keys of C, Am, F and Dm
12. To demonstrate the ability to perform intermediate-level rhythms
13. To perform melodic lines and scales in the keys of C, D, F, G, A and E

14. To demonstrate and perform moveable bar chords based on the "E" and "A" chord forms
15. To demonstrate the ability to perform intermediate-level right-hand techniques
16. To create simple melodies
17. To participate in performance and evaluation of music
18. To become aware of musical styles and composers and their correlation to world history
19. To perform with students from other artistic disciplines

Backward Assessment Models Level 2-Intermediate Guitar

YEAR TWO - At the completion of year two, students will be able to:

- play in Fifth Position in the keys of C, Am, F and Dm
- play dotted quarter note rhythms and triplets
- play melodic lines in the keys of C, Am, D, F, Dm, G, Em, A, & E
- play in time signatures like 3/8, 6/8 and cut time
- play major scales in the keys C, D, F, G, A & E
- play chromatic scale in first position
- play an extended range to high C
- play moveable bar chords based on the "E" and "A" chord forms
- play I IV V7 I in every key using moveable forms
- play major, minor, major sevenths, dominant sevenths, minor sevenths and power chords in every key using moveable forms
- play intermediate-level chord arpeggios using p-i-m-a
- strum intermediate-level syncopated rhythms
- demonstrate facilities in both flat picking and finger picking techniques

ADVANCED GUITAR LEVEL III

Course Scope:

This one-year course is designed for students who have successfully completed the skills outlined in the Guitar Level II syllabus. This course includes further development of the skills necessary to become independent as a guitarist. This course emphasizes the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability and skills inherent to performance. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on an advanced level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences. A progression of technical proficiency is expected. This elective course for high school may be repeated for credit.

Course Goals:

20. To develop skills playing in multiple playing positions
21. To demonstrate the ability to perform advanced rhythms
22. To perform melodic lines and scales in the keys of E and Eb including relative minor keys
23. To demonstrate advanced skills using moveable chord forms
24. To demonstrate advanced right-hand techniques
25. To recognize and interpret ornamentations such as slides, slurs, hammers, pull-offs and trills
26. To recognize and interpret general articulations such as staccato, legato, accent marks and dynamics
27. To perform "swing" eighth notes in the tradition jazz swing style
28. To perform intermediate-level solo guitar literature with two contrapuntal voices
29. To perform in a variety of ensemble settings
30. To evaluate career opportunities related to music and guitar

CONTINUING SKILLS, THEMES, TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

GUITAR LEVEL III

The student will:

- play in Second Position in keys of D and A
- play in Seventh Position in the keys of D, A, G & Bm
- play in the Fifth Position in the key of Bb
- play an extended range to high E
- play sixteenth notes
- play dotted eighth note, sixteenth note rhythms
- play all notes on each string to the twelfth fret
- play "swing" eighth notes in the jazz style
- play in duple, triple and complex meters such as 9/8 and 12/8
- recognize and interpret general articulations such as staccato, legato, accent marks & dynamics
- play major, natural minor, harmonic minor and melodic minor scales in every key
- recognize and perform melodies in keys of Bb & Eb including relative minor keys
- recognize and interpret ornamentations such as slides, slurs, hammers, pull-offs, trills, etc.
- play two notes simultaneously using intervals of thirds, sixths and octaves
- perform intermediate arpeggiated studies using p-i-m-a
- extend skills using moveable bar chords
- play augmented and diminished chords in every key using moveable shapes
- play major sixth, minor sixth, ninths, thirteenths and suspended chords using moveable shapes
- perform beginning-level solo guitar literature with two contrapuntal voices
- play intermediate-level syncopated strums
- demonstrate intermediate facilities in both flat picking and finger picking techniques

ADVANCED GUITAR LEVEL 4

Course Scope:

This one-year course is designed for students who have successfully completed the skills outlined in the Level 3 Guitar syllabus. This course includes further development of the skills necessary to become independent as a guitarist. This course emphasizes the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability and skills inherent to performance. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar on an advanced level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat picking, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences. A progression of technical proficiency is expected. This elective course for high school may be repeated for credit.

Course Goals:

31. To perform melodic lines in the keys up to and including four sharps and four flats including relative minor keys
32. To demonstrate skills in playing in duple, triple and complex meters
33. To perform dorian and mixolydian scales in every key using moveable shapes
34. To perform advanced-level chords
35. To demonstrate further advanced right-hand technique
36. To improvise a solo over basic 12-bar blues and ii-V7-I chord progressions
37. To develop skills playing with alternate tunings such as drop D tuning (sixth string tuned down to low D)
38. To perform intermediate-level solo guitar literature with three voices
39. To perform in a variety of ensembles and styles
40. To evaluate career opportunities related to music and guitar

CONTINUING SKILLS, THEMES, TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

GUITAR LEVEL IV

The student will:

- play an extended range to high G (first string, fifteenth fret)
- play with drop D tuning (sixth string tune down to low D)
- play dorian and mixolydian scales in every key using moveable shapes
- improvise over basic 12-bar blues, ii-V7-I chord progressions, and jazz standards
- perform complex rhythms and syncopations
- perform in complex duple and triple meters
- play in the keys up to four sharps and four flats
- perform intermediate-level solo guitar literature with three voices
- perform advanced-level chords
- perform advanced accompaniment techniques
- perform in a variety of ensembles and styles
- play selected studies of Carcassi, Carulli and Sor (or equal difficulty)
- create a chord melody arrangement from a given melody and chord symbols
- demonstrate advanced facilities in both flat picking and finger picking techniques