COURSE SYLLABUS

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SEMESTER COURSE OFFERED: Applied Guitar (private Lesson)

DEPARTMENT: Music

COURSE NUMBER: MUSC 1224

NAME OF COURSE: Guitar

NAME OF INSTRUCTOR: Michael Wheeler

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Learning Objectives

This course is designed to guide the student to proficiency on the guitar. The course will emphasize techniques and materials that will prepare the student to perform in many musical situations.

1. The student will be able to:
2. read standard musical notation on guitar.
3. recognize chord symbols and read chord diagrams.
4. play major and minor scales. To play arpeggios and modes
5. improve their physical agility and technique.
6. develop a repertoire of performance pieces.

Major Assignments/Exams

Grades:
Grades will be determined by the instructor’s consideration of certain factors. The main areas of consideration will be:
1. The student’s improvement during the semester.
2. The amount of effort and practice the student gives the class material.
3. The overall proficiency of the student on the guitar. The fact that students will start the class at different levels of proficiency will be understood and taken into consideration.
4. The students will be given tests to determine their progress during the semester.
5. A Jury examination will be given at the end of the semester. This will test the student’s knowledge of the materials covered throughout the semester.
Students will receive a grade for each lesson. At the end of the semester, your lesson grade will be calculated as follows: Lesson average 50% Jury Exam 50%

Required Reading

A Modern Method for Guitar “ Vol. 1,2 or 3 (Berklee Series) by William G. Leavitt is the required text for development of sight reading and basic skills.
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Recommended Reading

Other texts may be used if the instructor decides they are needed to work on specific techniques. The student does not have to get these books unless the instructor specifically requires them. Some of these are: “Sonatas and Partitas for Unaccompanied Violin” by J.S Bach, “The Charlie Parker Omni Book” by Jamey Aebersold, “The Complete Johnny Smith Approach to Guitar” by Johnny Smith, “Mel Bay’s Complete book of Theory Harmony and Voicing” by Brett Willmot.

List of discussion/lecture topics

This course is designed to develop the student’s musical ability and to foster their musical growth.

1. The development of reading skills. Standard notation will be emphasized. Understanding guitar fingerings and nomenclature.
2. The study of chords. The application of chord inversions and extensions.
4. The study of scales and arpeggios. Major and minor scales, arpeggios and modes will be studied to enhance the student’s physical dexterity and technique. This will further develop understanding of the fundamentals of the musical language.
5. To develop a repertoire of performance pieces. It is important that the musical concepts studied are applied in the performance and memorization of various compositions for the guitar.
6. The role of the guitar in various settings will be explored. This includes the guitar as a solo instrument, as accompaniment, or as part of an ensemble.

Instructional Methods

Procedures: Class attendance and the preparation of assigned work will be necessary to accomplish the objectives of the class. Students must be prepared to spend time outside of lesson time to practice and apply the materials discussed in class.

Attendance: Students are expected at each lesson. A 24-hour notice is required for a lesson to be cancelled and rescheduled. Lessons cancelled by the student without a valid reason will not be made up. No student will be withdrawn from private lessons. The student must complete withdrawal forms in the registrars office.

Supplies: Students must have their own guitar. Electric or acoustic (nylon string or steel string) are acceptable. Students using electric guitars do not need to bring an amplifier. One will be available for the lesson. A metronome is recommended.