

Beginning Guitar MUS 108 50

Class Schedule

Instructor: Kyle Neely

Course Description-

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic fundamentals of playing guitar. However, it moves at a faster pace and covers more complex ideas than MUS 107 and is for students with a little experience on guitar. Upon completion students should have a working knowledge of left and right hand technique, a better understanding of the fret-board and a clear understanding of barre chords and tablature notation.

WEEK 1- Introduction to class

We will go over the guitar and teaching methods for the class
Intro to the first piece

WEEK 2- Perform first piece

Review teaching methods
Intro to second piece

WEEK 3- Perform second piece

Intro to third piece

WEEK 4- Perform third piece

Intro to fourth piece

WEEK 5- Perform fourth piece

Intro to fifth piece

WEEK 6- Perform fifth piece

Intro to sixth piece

WEEK 7- Perform sixth piece

Intro to seventh piece
or ensemble work (time pending)

WEEK 8- Perform seventh piece
Intro to eighth piece

WEEK 9- Perform eighth piece
Discuss final performance pieces
Intro to ninth piece

WEEK 10- Perform ninth piece
Pick final pieces
Intro to tenth piece

WEEK 11- Perform tenth piece
Intro to eleventh piece if needed
Clean up loose ends to final performance pieces and
work on making them musical

WEEK 12- Final performance of two chosen pieces from semester

FAQ's- Do I have to play in class? Answer: Yes. Being able to perform a piece is very important to learning the guitar. It is one thing to play a few notes and chords but it takes work to make music and play in rhythm. I can gauge your progress when I hear you play. Often times, especially in the first few weeks, we play as a class so no one is "on the spot". I don't want the anxiety of having to play get in the way of learning!

Why don't we read standard notation? Answer: Nothing can replace standard notation, it is by far the best way to really learn and understand the whole scope of music. However, it does take longer to learn and we can cover much more ground with chord diagrams and tablature notation at first (information learned in class). Getting true beginners up and running and excited about the guitar is the goal here! I've never met a guitar player that started playing so they could learn music theory.

Do I need to come to class? Answer: Duh! Is the best answer but to elaborate: We work as a class and this is where you get information and a chance to play what we are working on. The first 3 to 4 weeks are especially important as this is the time we cover all the “tools” used to learn in class.

Points: There are a total of 100 possible points; the breakdown is as follows:

24 for attendance or two points per class

31 for the final exam which is a performance of two pieces learned in class
this is a one on one performance so it will not be in front of the class.

Memorizing the music is best but you are allowed to use handouts.

45 for in class playing (I will take your best nine performance grades
From each week we play)

*Every time you play in class I grade your performance from 1 to 5 based on
These factors:

1. Was it the handout I gave you?
2. Was it in rhythm?
3. Did you stop and start multiple times?
4. Did it sound like music?
5. Did you play it right?

ADDITIONAL NOTES: If you are planning to use an electric guitar, make sure to bring a small amp. I love distortion on an amp but for the sanity of the class please use a clean tone at a reasonable volume! Bring a pick to class, I sometimes have extras but not always. Please practice what we are working on in class. This is not your “jam session”. It’s sometimes nice to hear something outside of what we work on but the guy/girl who is constantly “noodling” is just annoying. Keep your handouts, make a folder for them, the less time I spend in the copy room the better! Plus, you may want to use one for the final exam. Be on time! Anyone more than 10 minutes late will only get partial attendance for the day.