

Course Syllabus
MUS-27: Beginning Guitar I Spring 2024

Instructor: David Heckman
Office Location: Online/Canvas
Office Hours: on Zoom/by appointment
Phone number:
Email: david.heckman@reedleycollege.edu



Schedule:
MW 4:00-4:50 p.m.
2 units

Location:
MUS 170

Important Dates

January 19: Last day to drop for full a refund
January 26: Last day to add/Last day to drop without a “W”
March 9: Final drop deadline (letter grades assigned after this date)

Class will not meet: February 19 (Washington Day), March 25-29 (Spring recess)
If class is canceled other than these stated dates, there will either be advance notice given by the instructor, or an official announcement placed on the classroom door.

Final exam: Wednesday, May 15, 4:00-4:50 p.m.

Course Description

This course will present correct left and right hand techniques for efficiency in playing the guitar. It will include strumming, chording, scale playing, arepeggios, single line and solo playing. Both tablature and modern notation are used. Student must supply own guitar (nylon stringed/classical guitar preferred). (A, CSU, UC)
ADVISORIES: English 1A or 1AH and Mathematics 3A or 45.

Course Objectives

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Learn how to read basic music notation (Whole note, half note, quarter note, eighth note) with tablature in the first position.
2. Apply correct technique for left and right hand to guitar playing.
3. Learn the basic movable chord forms and how to move them.
4. Experience playing in an ensemble and as a soloist.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to apply foundational techniques to their guitar playing.

Required Textbook

Guitar Ensemble Method Book, Student Edition – GuitarCurriculum.com (additional readings as assigned by instructor)

Other Required Materials

- Guitar (nylon string preferred)
- Pick (optional)
- Computer to access all course materials
- Pencil and folder for keeping documents
- Footstool (optional)

Student Expectations

- Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in all activities.
- Students should come to class on time and prepared to learn.
- Students are expected to work together in a positive and cooperative manner.
- If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check for any assignments and announcements.
- Come dressed for class in appropriate attire that allows movement – no pajamas or hats.
- Cell phones should be turned off or to the silent position.
- No food, gum, or drinks (besides bottled water) are allowed in class.

Grading Criteria

1. Student must attend at least 70% of class sessions to earn a PASS grade.
2. Student must attend and complete final to earn a PASS grade. The final will be comprehensive of all information covered in class sessions.

Grading Scale

PASS/NO PASS

Late work and make-up work policy

Late assignments will be accepted but graded one full grade lower for each week (or portion of a week) that the work is late. Unexcused absences do not constitute changing an assignment due date. If you are absent from class, you are still responsible for the information and assignments you missed. There will be no make-ups for missed exams without prior arrangements with the instructor. The final exam is required.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty and Disruption

For detailed information regarding Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Disruption, please see pages 46-47 of the Reedley College Catalogue. Please turn off and stow all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Students may be dismissed from class and counted as absent for creating excessive disruptions.

Changes to the Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be made in writing and distributed to all members of the class, either in person or electronically.

Course Content Outline

Date	Topic	Assignment
Week 1–2	Introduction to Guitar basics: Parts of guitar, caring for your guitar, how to tune, making a good sound.	
Week 3–4	Movable chord forms, introduction to left hand technique, basics of guitar tab/music notation.	Ensemble Piece: Meditation
Week 5–7	Chord syllabus, first position, right hand technique, continuation of guitar tab/music notation.	
Week 8–10	Chord syllabus, picking/strumming techniques, Scales	Ensemble Piece: Neptune Run
Week 11–12	Solo vs. Ensemble Techniques, Cont. of technique	
Week 13–14	Level 2 Ensemble Rehearsal	Ensemble Piece: Ode To Joy
Week 15–16	Level 2 & 3 Ensemble and Solo Rehearsal Techniques	Solo Piece TBD By Student
Week 17	Final Review	
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>Wednesday, May 15, 4:00-4:50 p.m.</i>	