

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

GUITAR CLASS I/MUS 1231

Class Time: 1:00-1:50 TU, TH
Classroom: 118 Fine Arts Building
Professor: Dr. Tim Crist
Office: 206 Fine Arts Building

Phone: 680.8441 OR 972.2094 (music office)
Mailbox: Music Office
e-mail: tcrist@astate.edu
Website: <http://www.cit.astate.edu/tcrist/>

Office Hours: TBA

Prerequisite: None

Necessary Equipment:

- 1) An Acoustic Guitar with strings (a classical guitar with nylon strings is highly recommended)
- 2) A metronome
- 3) A footstool (optional)

Required Text:

Hemmo, Philip. *Beginning Classroom Guitar with CD, 2nd ed.* Belmont : Wadsworth/Thomson, 2004. (ASU Bookstore)

Course objectives: The Guitar Class is an introductory course to learning the fundamentals of guitar playing. The course will focus on learning basic chords, conventional strumming techniques and finger picking, and notes in first position as well as learning the general technique of guitar playing. Students will become familiar with the fundamental techniques of playing classical and selected popular, unaccompanied guitar styles. These techniques range from sitting position, hand positions, and nail care, to tuning, note reading, melody playing, arpeggio study, and melody and accompaniment type textures. Students will also learn basic musicianship as they discover ways to interpret musical ideas and be introduced to a variety of popular music styles. Emphasis will be placed on the study of classical guitar technique.

Grading:

Daily Attendance 10%
In-Class and Private Evaluations 30%
Individual Audits 60% [Midterm audit is 20%; Final Audit 40%]

Attendance will be taken regularly. The in-class/private evaluations will be done sporadically and unannounced to make sure the student is steadily advancing and keeping up with the material. The individual audits will be performed at scheduled times outside of regular class time. The individual audits will be performed in my office (FA 254). The grading criteria for the individual audits is as follows:

Correct notes	25%
Correct Fingerings	25%
Fluidity (no stopping and steady rhythm)	25%
Technique (correct left and right hand positions, sitting position, etc.)	25%

Final Exam: Date: _____. Place: _____

Class Policy

Late work will not be graded without an official ASU or doctors note explaining the reason for your absence from class. If at all possible, please let me know of any absence from class before hand by either note in my office box, phone message, or e-mail. Make sure you date any correspondence with me. I will make every effort with you to make up work/tests missed due to excused absences.

As with any University class, attendance is crucial to success. Frequent absence from class will affect your grade!

Advice

- 1) I welcome any suggestions or comments you have concerning the class. Please deliver them in person to me in class, during my office hours or, if you wish, anonymously in my office box.
- 2) Practice regularly! Even if you can manage only 15 minutes/day, practice. Building calluses on your finger tips is extremely important in the initial stages of playing the guitar. So make sure you play at least 5-6 days a week for 15 minutes or more/day (30 minutes or more/day is HIGHLY recommended).
- 3) Buy a loose-leaf notebook with a sleeve on the front. Slide this syllabus in the sleeve with the calendar facing out. You can therefore refer to it easily and often!
- 4) Attend concerts of guitar music. Concerts will be announced in class. Some of these concerts you will be required to attend.

Procedures to Accommodate Students with Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodation because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment to see the instructor as soon as possible.