

**Syllabus MUS17A Spring 2023
CRN 26546 Beginning Guitar**

Hours: Friday 12:30-1:20 Lecture; 1:30-3:20 Lab

Location: A31

Instructor: Benett Zussman

Office A33

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Office hours: Friday 11:30-12:20. Others times by appointment

Required Texts: Hal Leonard Method Guitar Method, Complete Edition Books & CD's 1, 2 and 3 by Schmid, Will, Koch, Greg (2002) ISBN: 9780881881394

Please bring your guitar and the textbook to all class meetings.

Other Required Materials: Nylon or steel string acoustic guitar; guitar picks, pencil, note paper, Internet access, online class materials to be downloaded by student.

Recommended Materials: music stand, metronome, guitar tuner, footstool, picks, diamond nail file, 500 grit sand paper

Welcome to Beginning Acoustic Guitar! This class is a performance based lecture and laboratory focused on learning and developing the skills needed to perform beginning acoustic guitar music.

Description: This course will provide students with beginning instruction for playing both acoustic (steel string) and classical (nylon string) guitar. No prior musical experience is required. Topics include basic note and tablature reading on the first four frets of the instrument; right-hand techniques, including free strokes, rest strokes, fingerstyle/arpeggio technique and pick technique; chords, chord progressions and various strumming techniques; and music fundamentals, including scales and chord construction. These elements are especially suited for learning folk

song accompaniment and basic melodies, and are highly recommended for students who are pursuing music education or primary school teaching certificates and degrees.

Student Learning Outcome: Successful students will be able to:

- Perform several chord progressions in different keys using both strumming and fingerstyle techniques.
- Employ proper rest and free stroke techniques for basic classical guitar exercises.
- Read music for guitar at a rudimentary level with standard notation and tablature

By the term's end, you will be able to:

- Read guitar tablature in first position
- Read easy guitar music in standard notation in the first position
- Play—and understand the underlying concepts behind--chord progressions in different keys
- Use several techniques for playing the guitar, including strumming, pick technique, single note playing, and finger style
- Play various song forms
- Demonstrate proper technique for holding and tuning the guitar
- Perform various scales, arpeggios, slurs
- Perform simple solo and ensemble pieces
- Learn effective practice habits
- Give a class presentation or write a research paper.
- Attend a guitar concert and write a review of the show

If you are exhibiting even very slight signs of illness, you must not attend class in person. De Anza College is committed to protecting the health and safety of all members of its community. By participating in this class, all students agree to uphold and help create a safe and healthy classroom environment. In this class, please do the following:

- Maintain the designated distancing guidelines of the classroom
- Enter and exit the classroom according to posted signage If you are exhibiting even the slightest sign of illness, you must not attend an in-person class.

Notify me by email and follow the instructions posted at <http://www.deanza.edu/healthservices/covid19.html>

Silence and put away electronic devices for each class meeting. You may use an iPad or tablet to read the .pdfs for your lessons. If expecting an emergency call, notify the instructor before class. If you make or answer a call, or text during class, you will be asked to leave for the day.

This is an accelerated course of study; complete immersion in materials is required.

Class participation requires *presence* during the entire class period. Students should not leave the classroom once class has begun except in emergencies. No guests or audits allowed.

Class participation requires *attention*. Students should refrain from engaging in activities that are disruptive to the class. Professional conduct requires that students refrain from eating, talking or laughing while others are speaking, passing notes, playing games, reading newspapers, or in any other manner disrupting the educational process by being rude or inattentive. Students acting in an unprofessional manner will be asked to leave the classroom and will be counted absent for that class.

Attendance: Attendance at all class meetings is required and attendance will be taken at each meeting. All tests and assignments will be done online. Late work will affect your grade.

- Absences and tardies will be unfavorably reflected in your participation/preparation grade.
- Exceptions will be made for severe illness, emergencies, religious obligation and legal duties--with documentation.
- Please communicate significant attendance problems with the instructor
- Do not call the Creative Arts office to report absences
- To keep up with assignments in the event of a missed class, check online class schedule, confer with classmates

- Instructors cannot drop students after the drop deadline; if you stop attending close to that deadline, and do not drop, you will receive an “F” in the course. Students are ultimately responsible for dropping courses, but may be dropped for excessive absence.
- Late arrivals are extremely disruptive. Be on time for each class and remain in class for the entire meeting time. Chronic tardiness, or early departures will negatively impact participation score.

Requirements:

Practice/Homework: at least one hour, daily, conscientious practice.

Reading/practice/written homework assignments will be given.

Tests and Final Exam: A mid-term and final exam, plus weekly in-class evaluations. Exams test conceptual knowledge (written) and your practice of the course materials.

Online assignments include a film review, transcribing notation and tablature and graded discussions. All written tests will be online and performance assessments will be in class.

Test makeup: If you are absent on any test day, it is up to you to initiate a makeup. Only one test can be made up, and must be done within one week. Any test not made up will constitute a zero for that exam.

Concert review: You are required to attend one live guitar concert and to write a brief report on your experience. For events go to SBGS.org.

Research paper or Presentation: Due at the midterm with bibliography and notes. Topics will be discussed.

Extra Credit can be earned by attending up to two more live performances of: guitar—classical, flamenco, or acoustic; chamber music or symphony concerts; especially, De Anza student performances. Generally these will be worth 4 points each. A short summary and proof of attendance is required. Extra Credit can be used only for those with a grade of C or better.

Academic integrity: Don't cheat on, or share, written tests or you will fail that test and your instructor will report breaches of academic integrity to the Student Affairs office. See De Anza College policies on academic integrity in the college catalog.

Tentative Scoring

Participation and preparation, in class evaluation: 30 points

Presentation 20 points

Concert Review 10 points

Mid-term tests: 30 points

Final Exam: 40 points

Total points:130

Final Grade 93% and above of total points = A

90-92% = A-

87-89% “ = B+

83-87% “ = B

80-82% “ = B-

77-79% “ = C+

70-76% “ = C

60-69% “ = D

59% and below “ = F

Important Dates

- September 25 First day of classes
- October 6 Finalize drops, drop no-shows
- October 7 Last day to add
- October 8 Last day to drop with a full refund
- October 8 Last day to drop a class without a W
- October 9 Census
- November 10 Veteran's Day holiday – campus closed
- November 17 Last day to drop with a W
- November 23-26 Thanksgiving holiday – campus closed
- December 8 Last day of regular classes
- December 11-15 Final Exams