

COURSE OUTLINE

**Music 150
Beginning Guitar**

I. Catalog Statement

Music 150 is an introductory course in playing the guitar. Students learn basic playing technique, tuning, chords, and scales. An emphasis is placed on reading and performance of music in the open position. Repertoire is drawn from a diverse set of styles including but not limited to classical, folk, blues, rock, and jazz. No previous musical training or experience on the guitar is required.

Total Lecture Units: 1.0
Total Studio Units: 0.5
Total Course Units: 1.5

Total Lecture Hours: 16.0
Total Studio Hours: 16.0
Total Faculty Contact Hours: 32.0

Prerequisite: None

Note: This class requires the student to have a full-size guitar in playable condition.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 5; Math 2

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate proper performance posture and technique;
2. recognize standard music notation and its application on the guitar;
3. demonstrate the ability to tune the guitar;
4. demonstrate open position chords and rhythm guitar techniques;
5. demonstrate major scales in multiple keys in the open position;
6. demonstrate basic open position guitar repertoire.

IV. Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 32

A. Basics of the Guitar

Lecture 1 hour

1. Parts of the guitar	
2. Types of guitars	
B. Care and Maintenance of the Guitar	Lecture 2 hours
1. Changing strings	
2. Action, setups, care, and cleaning	
C. Tuning the Guitar	Lecture 1 hour
1. Tuning to fixed pitch references	Studio 3 hours
2. Relative tuning	
D. Development of Correct Posture and Tone	Lecture 1 hour
1. Folk position and plectrum technique	Studio 2 hours
2. Classical position and fingerstyle technique	
E. Reading Music Notation on the Guitar	Lecture 4 hours
1. Reading pitches in the open position	Studio 4 hours
2. Development of basic rhythm vocabulary	
3. Tablature for the guitar	
F. Open Position Chords and Rhythm Guitar	Lecture 2 hours
1. Reading chord blocks	Studio 2 hours
2. Plectrum rhythm styles	
3. Classical and fingerstyle arpeggio accompaniment	
G. Major Scales	Lecture 1 hour
	Studio 1 hour
H. Open Position Repertoire	Lecture 4 hours
	Studio 4 hours

V. **Methods of Instruction**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture and demonstration;
2. applied performance;
3. discussion and review;
4. listening and analysis;
5. online materials.

VI. **Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. practice;
2. written assignments and exercises (e.g. identifying names of basic notes and locations of pitches on the guitar);

3. listening to music.

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. performance evaluations;
2. midterm examinations;
3. final examination and performance;

VIII. Textbooks

Phillips, Mark and Jon Chappell. *Guitar for Dummies*. Hoboken: Wiley Publishing, 2012. Print.

12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 9781118115541.

Bay, William and Mike Christiansen. *Mastering the Guitar Class Method: Level 1*. Pacific: Mel Bay Publications, 2001. Print.

12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 9780786659692.

* Best and most current publication available at this time.

Snyder, Jerry. *Guitar School, Method Book 1*. Van Nuys: Alfred, 1998. Print

12th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 9780882849027.

* Best and most current publication available at this time.

IX. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate proper performance posture and technique;
2. recognize standard music notation and its application on the guitar;
3. demonstrate the ability to tune the guitar;
4. demonstrate open position chords and rhythm guitar techniques;
5. demonstrate major scales in multiple keys in the open position;
6. demonstrate basic open position guitar repertoire.