COURSE SYLLABUS

APP2800

High School Guitar

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Have you ever dreamed of playing the guitar? Whether you love music, want to play guitar for your family and friends, or desire to be a music star, this course is a great place to start. No prior music experience is needed. You will learn the fundamentals of music and the basic skills necessary to play a wide variety of music styles. Student guides, Carlos and Ariel, will guide you through each step of this journey towards becoming a skilled guitarist and musician. This course can be used as a performing/fine arts credit to meet the art requirement for high school graduation.

PREREQUISITES

None.

MATERIALS LIST

Microsoft Office, a playable six string guitar, a guitar pick, a printer, and a built-in webcam.

A guitar is “playable” if it is the correct size for the guitarist, is easy to press the strings down against the frets, and plays in tune up and down the fretboard. There are three common types of six-string guitars: classical, steel string, and electric. If you do not already have a guitar, you may want to seek the advice of an experienced guitarist, a guitar teacher, or your local music store.

Most guitars are built to be played right-handed, so that the right hand would pluck the strings and the left hand would press the strings down against the frets. Many left-handed guitarists play right-handed guitars. Many guitarists and teachers recommend that left-handed students try playing on a right-handed guitar when first learning. There are some guitars available that are built to be played left-handed. This course is taught using a right-handed guitar. Students choosing to use a left-handed guitar will need to adjust accordingly.

COURSE SEQUENCE

MODULE 1: MUSIC: THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE
MODULE 2: BEGINNING TO PLAY
MODULE 3: STRUMMING CHORD ACCOMPANIMENT
MODULE 4: READING GUITAR MUSIC
MODULE 5: BEGINNING MUSIC THEORY
MODULE 6: READING GUITAR MUSIC
MODULE 7: ENSEMBLES
MODULE 8: PRIMARY CHORDS
MODULE 9: PLAYING THE BLUES
MODULE 10: THE GUITAR IN AMERICAN MUSIC

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS
A. Daily Review Assignments
B. Video Performance Recordings
C. Discussion Based Assessments with Instructor
D. Quiz Assessments
E. Tests

COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

Grading Weights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes, Performances, Discussion Based Assessments and Written Assignments</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Scale

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85 – 92</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77 – 84</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>70 – 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 70</td>
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Other Policies

A. Academic Misconduct
See pages 27-30 of your Student Handbook

B. Repeating Assignments

Students may have two attempts on lessons. Quizzes and tests cannot be repeated to gain a higher grade. Quizzes and tests may be reset for technical issues.

SCOPE, SEQUENCE AND SCORES

FIRST SEMESTER

Time in music: beat, rhythm, and meter
Sound in music: pitch, dynamics, duration, and timbre
Melody and harmony
Notating pitch, duration, meter, tempo, and dynamics
Three basic types of guitars
Parts of the guitar
Guitar care and maintenance
Basic history of the guitar
Practice area and tools
The Five Practice Principles
Concentration development
Keeping a practice journal
Three ways to hold the guitar: classical, casual, and standing
Universal guidelines for holding the guitar: choosing a position
Getting started with the classical position: the four points of contact
Positioning your hands, wrists, and arms
Using the right-hand fingers: strums, free strokes, and rest strokes
How to use a guitar pick: playing downstrokes and upstrokes
Using the left-hand fingers: stopping the strings
Tuning the guitar: online tuner, tuning to a keyboard, and relative tuning
How to play “Spanish Song”
How to play “Spider Crawl Jam”
Learning to read fretboard diagrams
Chord quality: E minor (Em), E major (E), and E dominant seventh (E7) chords
How to play “E-Chord Study”
Learning to read guitar tablature
Playing the E minor pentatonic scale
Introduction to Improvisation: Creating solos using the Five R’s
How to learn and practice new chords
Strumming chord changes: Em-A7 chord progression
How to play “Chord Change Study”
Strumming chord accompaniment to a melody
D-A7 chord progression: “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”
Am-E7 chord progression: “Für Elise”
G-D7 chord progression: “Skip to My Lou”
C-G7 chord progression: “Ode to Joy”
Review of music notation fundamentals
Rhythm studies
Natural notes on the guitar
Pick-up notes: “Snake Charmer” and “Good Morning to All”
Ties: “Amazing Grace” and “When the Saints Go Marching In”
Standard notation vs. tablature
Across the Bridge: Poetry in Motion (poetry in music)  Beginning intervals: half steps and whole steps
Sharps and flats
Introduction to major scales: “Joy to the World”
Music Composition for guitar

SECOND SEMESTER

SEGMENT 2

Form in music
How to play “The Snake Charmer” (using the bass strings)
Introduction to Minor Scales: The A natural minor scale  Relative scales
Harmonic and melodic minor scales
How to play “House of the Rising Sun”
Introduction to Eighth Notes: Rhythm exercises
“Eighth-Note Study in 4/4” and “Eighth-Note Study in 3/4”
Playing melodies using eighth notes: “Frère Jacques,” “Minuet in G,” and “Irish Sea Shanty”
Introduction to ensemble music
Practicing and rehearsing ensemble music
Performing ensemble music
Ensemble repertoire I: “The Water is Wide” (melody with counter-melody)
Ensemble repertoire II: “Old Joe Clark” (melody with chord accompaniment)
Ensemble analysis
Analyzing a musical score
Evaluating a music performance
Key signatures: keys of C, G, D, and A major
How to play “Joy to the World” (ensemble with melody and bass line)
Musical instrument families
Musical instrument pitch range
Introduction to primary chords in major keys: scale degrees, triads, seventh chords, and primary chords
Primary chords in the key of G major: strumming chord accompaniment to “Amazing Grace”
Primary chords in the key of D major
Introduction to transposition: transposing “Amazing Grace” to D major
Introduction to primary chords in minor keys
Primary chords in the key of A minor (new chord D minor): strumming chord accompaniment to “A Minor Entertainer”
The A minor pentatonic and A blues scales
Playing the blues: swing rhythm and creating blues licks
Movable scale patterns
Note names on the sixth string
The rhythm in blues: The 12-bar blues chord progression
Life through the lens of music: music in society, music styles, and performance styles
The Guitar in American Music
Spotlight on bluegrass (root strum, hammer-ons, pull-offs, and slides)
Spotlight on rock music (power chords, palm mute, and bends)
Spotlight on jazz (“Major 7” chords, “minor 7” chords, “9” chords and ii-V7-I chord progressions)
Encore! Capstone piece (student chooses from “Bluegrass Festival,” “56 Rock,” and “Falling Up”)