

**Syllabus MUS17A Winter 2024**  
**CRN 38673 Beginning Guitar**

**Hours:** Thursday 6:30-7:20 Lecture; 7:30-9:20 Lab

**Location:** A31

**Instructor:** Benett Zussman

**Office** A33

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**Office hours:** Thur 5:00-6:20. Others times by appointment

**Required Texts:** Beginning Acoustic Guitar by Greg Horne, Alfred Publisher ISBN 10: 1-4706-1779-x Book and DVD

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 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

### **Expanded Description**

#### A. Demonstrate basic techniques

##### 1. Right hand techniques

a. Rest strokes

b. Free strokes

c. Flatpick technique

1. Syncopated strumming patterns

2. Basic up-down strumming

3. Single-note melodic flatpick technique: down stroke,

alternating up and down.

d. Fingerstyle/arpeggio techniques

1. Basic combinations of p,i, m, a fingers

2. Alternating bass-chord patterns

##### 2. Left hand techniques

a. Single-note playing and easy melodies

b. Open position chords: major, minor and 7th chords

#### B. Demonstrate music fundamentals as they relate to the guitar

##### 1. Concepts of pitch and harmony

a. Basic concept of pitch and instrument tuning

b. Identify and play notes within first position on all strings.

c. Western musical alphabet: whole step and half step in scale

construction.

d. Major, minor scales and key signatures

1. Concept of tertian harmony

2. Principal and secondary triads

- e. Chord construction
- f. Chord progression: numeric system for harmonic analysis
- 2. Reading Music
  - a. Standard notated pitched in first position
  - b. Basic notated rhythms--whole through eighth notes and rests; time signatures, ties, dots.
  - c. Chord symbols and chord charts/lead sheets
  - d. The tablature system
- C. Identify structural elements and major styles of acoustic and classical guitar
  - 1. Identifying song sections AB, ABA, repeats, first and second endings, etc.

### **Methods of Evaluating Objectives**

**A.** Midterm and final written and performance examinations to assess students' integration of course materials.

**B.** Ongoing assessment of student progress and preparation through in-class observation, including ability to count while playing, and ability to keep up with group practice of material with minimal errors. Includes proper execution of both left and right hand techniques, as well as a high degree of accuracy, as measured against the students' existing musical experience, and objectively.

**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](http://SBGS.org).

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 written 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.

**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](http://SBGS.org).

**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

Concert Review 10 points

Mid-term tests and assignments: 30 points

Final Exam: 30 points

Total points:100

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**

- January 8 First day of classes
- January 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday – no classes, campus closed
- January 20 Finalize drops, drop no-shows
- January 20 Last day to add classes
- January 21 Last day to drop classes without a W
- January 22 Census
- February 16-19 Presidents' holiday – no classes, campus closed
- March 1 Last day to drop with a W
- March 25-29 Final Exams