**MUS 1115 Contemporary Guitar for Beginners**

***Descriptio****n:*

This course is designed for students with little or no background in pop guitar playing. It introduces students to the basics of pop guitar playing and performance techniques. Every student must participate in the Departmental Performances as part of course work.

Requirement: Students will be required to acquire a personal instrument to enable them practice on their own.

***Objectives:***

1. To introduce the basics of playing guitar, the right posture, and handing of the instrument
2. To introduce the rudiments of standard musical notation, major scales, and basic rhythm accompaniment
3. To equip students with knowledge to handle, care and store guitars
4. To equip students with skills to enable them pursue and engage in creative and aesthetic expression
5. To equip students with aural and sight singing skills

*Course Outline*

Topic 1: Introduction to Guitar Playing

* Handling, Care, and Storage of the Instrument
* Handling Rehearsals

Topic 2: Basics in Guitar Playing

* The Guitar Fingerboard, Chord Charts and Finger Exercises
* Guitar Tuning Methods
* Guitar Tablature and Rhythmic Symbols

Topic 3: Country and Folk Accompaniment Styles in ¾ and 4/4 Time

Topic 4: Standard Musical Notation

Topic 5: Major Scales in First Position

Topic 6: Sight Reading: Musical Notation

Topic 7: Rock and Popular Accompaniment Styles

Topic 8: Eight and Twelve Bar Blues Progressions

Topic 9: Rhythmic Variation and Bass Runs

Topic 10: Finger Picking in 3/4 Time

Topic 11: Circle of 5th and Key Signatures and Transposing

Topic 12: Arpeggio Styles: Finger Picking in 4/4 Time

*Learning Outcomes*

1. Demonstration of basic guitar fundamentals such as tuning, reading chord charts, tablature and the note names on the fingerboard
2. Ability to Perform proper left and right hand techniques
3. Demonstration of the understanding of the rudiments of standard musical notation, major scales, and basic rhythm accompaniment
4. Ability to participate in solo/ensemble performance
5. Ability to hear and write down (aural skills) simple melodies
6. Ability to sight sing simple melodies

*Methods of Teaching/Delivery*

Demonstrations, homework, lecture, listening assignment, handouts, individual instruction, tutorials

*Modes of Assessment*

Course work

* Attendance and participation in class: 5%
* Weekly performance assessment: 20%
* Sight Singing: 5%
* Aural assignment: 5%
* Departmental Performances: 5%

Final examinations

* Practical:
  + Sight singing: 5%
  + Aural: 5%
  + Performance: 20%
* Written: 30%

*Selected Readings*

Lancaster and Refrow. 2004. *Group Piano for Adults.*2nd Edition. Boston: Alfred Publishing.

Mel Bay’s. 1972. *Guitar Class Method*. Volume 1. New York: Mel Bay Publishing.