

Class Guitar I

MUS 143-001, Fall 2011

W, 2:00 - 3:15, room CAB 1086

Syllabus

Phone: 962-7440

e-mail: russellr@uncw.edu

Office Location: CAB 1028

Office Hours: M - R, 11 AM - 12 PM, by appointment only

Course Description:

Purpose: This course provides instruction for beginners in playing the guitar. It is intended for beginners only! Those who have significant experience (one month or more) should drop MUS 143 and look into taking MUS 144 (Class Guitar II), which is offered each spring.

Approach to the Material: Learning to play the guitar is literally a “hands-on” experience. In each weekly meeting, we will spend most of the class actually playing the music that has been assigned for the week. Therefore, class attendance is crucial to success in this course so that your progress may be accurately monitored and so that any problems in your technique can be spotted and corrected without delay. It is expected that you will practice all assignments at least 30 minutes a day outside of class.

Learning Objectives: By the conclusion of the course you should be able to:

1. Play basic first-position chords and strum patterns commonly used in accompaniment;
2. Play the guitar with fundamentally sound technique, both pick-style and finger-style;
3. Read standard musical notation on the guitar in first position.

Textbook:

Snyder, Jerry. Jerry Snyder's Guitar School, Book One. (book/CD set). Alfred, 1993. ISBN: 9780882849027.

Supplies:

- . An acoustic guitar in good playing condition (nylon or steel strings OK)
- . An electronic guitar tuner and guitar picks
- . A notebook and pencil/pen for taking notes

Attendance policy:

As mentioned earlier, learning to play the guitar is a hands-on activity requiring the gradual accumulation of mental and muscular skills. Therefore, attendance is of the utmost importance in this course. More than one unexcused absence will lower your attendance grade; for each unexcused absence after the first, your attendance grade will be lowered by one letter grade. [*Excused absences*: you are a member of an athletic team that is on the road or a performing ensemble is touring, you have a doctor's appointment, you are sick or injured. *Unexcused absences*: any time you miss class that does not fall into the above categories.]

Assessment/grading:

Graded work: Other than attendance, your grade in MUS 143 will come from two areas: periodic playing tests and written quizzes. There will be two written quizzes and three playing tests given during the course. You will be given at least one week's notice before any quiz or playing test. There will also be a final exam in this course, which will be a comprehensive playing test.

Your final grade will be a weighted average of your: attendance grade (40%); test/quiz average (40%) and your final exam grade (20%)

This course requires **significant self-motivation**. Playing guitar is not like a math quiz - you can't "cram" for a playing test. You must not get behind. In the event that you have to miss a class meeting, I will expect you to make every effort to contact a classmate and find out what you missed that day.

This course is graded on the following scale:

A = 100 - 90 points or 90%

B = 89.9 - 80 points or 80-89%;

C = 79.9 - 70 points or 70-79%;

D = 69.9 - 60 points or 60-69%

F= 59.9 - 0 or 59% or lower

Academic dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Any form of academic dishonesty detected will be dealt with according to the rules of the UNCW Honor Code.

Classroom Conduct: Successful students conduct themselves in a professional manner in class because college is a professional environment!

Successful students ask questions about anything in class they do not understand, but they **do not engage in side conversations and whispering** because this is disruptive and distracting to others around them. Many students have made huge personal sacrifices to come to college; don't disrupt their class. *I will ask students who are engaging in side conversations to leave the class if they persist in annoying those around them. If you are consistently unable to respect the rights of others in this class, I will drop you from the class.*

Also, please **turn off all beepers, cell phones, and watch alarms** that make noise before coming into class; they are a serious distraction in classes and cannot be tolerated. Also, the use of laptops is not allowed in this class. (You're going to need both hands on the guitar!)

Communicating with me: I encourage students to communicate with me and to work out difficult questions or problems. I am always approachable, so *please do not feel or assume that I am "too busy" to talk with you.* If I am too busy at that particular moment, I will tell you and offer an alternative time. I may advise tutoring if you need extensive assistance. I am available during office hours or by email/voicemail. I prefer email and check it regularly; that should be your first option.