

Sul Ross State University

## MUS 1118-001: Guitar Class

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Spring 2016  
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TR 12:30-1:45  
FAB 100  
Office Hours: Posted on  
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**Text:** Because of differences in students' prior musical experience and student goals the student should consult with the instructor before purchasing textbooks.

Bay, Mel, Guitar Class Method, Vol. 1 (Beginning guitar)

The instructor also uses many handouts of his own composition.

**Supplies:** The student is expected to keep his assignments and handouts in order in a 3-ring binder or some type of folder or notebook. The university has a limited number of guitars available for rent. Ask the instructor for details.

### **Program Learning Outcomes for Music:**

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she:

1. Is able to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance
2. Is able to prepare appropriate program notes
3. Is able to evaluate and critique a musical performance
4. Has a general knowledge of music history

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce beginning and novice guitarists to the instrument, its playing techniques and musical possibilities. The bulk of the course work will concentrate on learning the chords and right & left-hand techniques necessary to enable the student to play basic songs and chord progressions.

Students who are at a further level of development will be given individual assignments.

### **Student Learning Objectives:**

How to tune the guitar with the 5<sup>th</sup>- fret method and electronic tuners

How to select and replace strings

2

How to evaluate the condition and playability of a guitar

Proper posture and holding of the guitar.

Positioning and use of the left and right arms, hands and fingers appropriate to the different styles and techniques employed on the guitar.

Familiarization with notation for the guitar: block diagram, fretboard diagram, tablature and staff notation.

By the end of the course the student should know the fingerings of the basic, open- string chords by memory and should be able to perform basic strum patterns.

Learning to play a musical instrument is a skill which requires substantial physical and mental coordination. And the only way you will acquire this is through practice. You will probably need to devote at least 30 minutes a day to practice if you are a beginner or if you want to progress to a higher level. Muscles in the left hand in particular have to be developed and also the fingertips on the left hand have to be toughened up. So in the beginning stages it is a bit of a no-pain-no-gain proposition but the rewards of being able to play the guitar are well worth it.

**Class Activities:** The class will be split into smaller groups of students who are more or less at the same level of experience. Much of the assignments will be in handout form so the student should get a notebook or 3- ring binder to organize handouts in and also have something to write down assignments on.

We will review the assignments in class and also play exercises/tunes together as a class. Students are also encouraged to study and practice together in smaller groups. There will be written tests which focus on labeling the parts of the guitar and the ability of the student to write out chord fingerings from memory in tablature and chord diagrams. Playing test will be conducted in class but in cases where the student is very

uncomfortable playing in front of others the student can arrange to play for the teacher on a private basis.

**Attendance:**

Quoting from page 66 of the SRSU 2014-2016 Catalog: “The instructor will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences... an absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class... An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence... Any student dropped for excessive absences will receive an “F” in the course dropped... The grade of **W** is given for courses dropped after the 12<sup>th</sup> class days through the last day to drop a course with a **W** as published in the University’s calendar. Students who wait until the published deadline must have complied with the class attendance policy of this catalog. An instructor is not obligated to recommend a **W** for a class if excessive absences have occurred.”

3

**Tardiness:** Students who arrive after the instructor has taken roll will be considered tardy. Students who are habitually tardy may, at the instructor’s discretion, be asked to explain/perform the previous class assignment

**Grading:** There will be 10 written and /or playing tests, including the final exam. They are all counted equally in grade averaging. **Students who do not take their tests on time will have 5 points deducted from their test grade for each class period that they have not taken the test.**

50%- Progress in assignments/ test scores	A= 90-100
30%- Attendance	B= 80-89+
10%- Keeping track of handouts	C= 70-79+
10%- Tardiness	D= 60-69+
	F= 59+ or below

**Class Schedule:**

Jan. 19- Intro to Guitar (posture, hand and arm position)

“ 21-28- Tune #1, Guitar Parts, tuning.

Feb. 2- Twelve- Bar Blues in A

“ 4- Tune #1 Test and Guitar Parts Test

- “ 9 – Cont. w/ Twelve B.B.N.A.
- “ 11-16- Twelve Bar Blues Test and start Tune #2
- “ 18- Cont. w/ Tune #2
- “ 23- Test on Tune #2, start on Tune #3
- “ 25- Cont. w/ Tune #3, start Note- reading section (“Aura Lee”)
- Mar. 1- Cont. w/ Tune #3 and Note Reading
  - “ 3- Test over “Aura Lee” and Cont. Tune #3
  - “ 8- Test on Tune #3, start Tune #4
  - “ 10- Cont. Tune #4, start Note Reading II
  - “ 22- Cont. w/ Tune #4 and Note Reading II
  - “ 24- Test on Tune #4, cont.. Note Reading II
  - “ 29- Cont. Note Reading II, start Tune #5
  - “ 31- Note Reading II Test, Cont. Tune #5
- Apr. 5- Cont. Tune #5
  - “ 7- Guitar History presentation
  - “ 12- Test on Tune #5, start Finger- Style section
  - “ 14- Les Paul Documentary

4

- “ 19- Start Tune #6, cont. Finger- Style
- “ 21- Test on Finger- Style, Cont. Tune #6
- Apr. 26- May 3- Cont. Tune #6

Tune #6 is the Final Exam

**FINAL EXAM: Thurs, May 12th @ 10:15 a.m.**

**A.D.A. Statement:** Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartze, M. Ed., L.P.C. in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203. Email: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

## **Important Notes Regarding University Policy and Schedule:**

Dropping Courses- A student is allowed to drop no more than 6 courses. This policy starts with the incoming freshman class in Fall 2007 and will be in force with all students entering the university afterwards. So think twice before you decide to drop a course.

**Important dates for Spring 2016:**

Jan. 18- MLK Day Holiday, no classes

“ . 22- Last day for late registration and schedule changes

Feb. 12- Last day to apply for May graduation without a late fee.

Mar. 14-18- Spring Break. No classes.

Apr. 8- Last day to withdraw from the University or to drop courses with a grade of “W.”  
Drops must be processed and in the Registrar’s Office by 4 p.m.