

Sul Ross State University

MUS 5319: Guitar Pedagogy

Steven Bennack
Fall 2016
(432)837-8215

FAB 100 TBA
Office Hours: Posted on
FAB 100 Door
sbennack@sulross.edu

Course Description: This course will focus on the teaching of elements common to all guitars (tuning, instrument components, strings, basic technique, etc.) as well as the teaching of techniques associated with different styles of music. In addition to the reading and essay assignments the student will have a teaching practicum in MUS 1118-001 Guitar Class and MUS 1113-007 Guitar Ensemble. The one-on-one meetings with the student will be used to prepare and review the teaching practicum.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the fundamentals of guitar technique, tuning, string selection and string replacement.
2. The student will possess a knowledge of the history, anatomy and functionality of the instrument.
3. The student will be familiar with the different forms of notation for the guitar and their application.
4. The student will evaluate the relative merits of the two most predominant approaches to guitar pedagogy: the “classic” method and the “chordal-plectrum” method.
5. The student will gain experience teaching guitar in a classroom setting and also conducting rehearsal of the guitar ensemble.

Required Readings:

Edelson, Edward. “Guitar in High School” in *The Guitar Player Book*, editors of *Guitar Player* magazine. New York: Grove Press, Inc. 1979, pgs. 291-94.

Gavall, John. “The Private Teacher” in *The Guitar- A Guide for Students and Teachers* ed. Michael Stimpson. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988, pgs. 17-18, 23-25.

Glynne-Jones, Majorie. “The Peripatetic Teacher” in *The Guitar- A Guide for Students and Teachers* ed. Michael Stimpson. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988, pgs. 5-14.

Parkening, Christopher. *Guitar Method, Vol. 1*. Chicago, Illinois: Antigua-Sherry-Bremer, Ltd.

Of Madrid, 1972, pgs. 8-9, 12-15, 78-79.

Shearer, Aaron. *Classic Guitar Technique, Vol. 1*. New York: Belwin Mills Publishing Corp., pgs. 1, 10-14, 38-39.

“The College Guitar Ensemble” Article by Chris Buzzelli. Copyright 2002 Chris Buzzelli. ChrisBuzzelli.com

The instructor will also furnish handouts of his own composition to be used in conjunction with the teaching practicum in MUS 1118-001 Guitar Class.

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.

Grading:

A= 90-100

B= 80-89+

C= 70-79+

D= 60-69+

F= 59+ or below

Essays 1-4 = 30 % of the final grade

Essays 5&6 = 30% of the final grade

Teaching Practicum = 30% of the final grade

Attendance and Keeping Track of Handouts = 10% of the final grade

Class Schedule: The schedule of assignments may be subject to change if more emphasis needs to be given to a particular section.

Week 1- Intro- Evaluate prior experience and methods.

Week 2- Evaluation. Prepare for and teach Guitar Class.

Week 3- Required Reading: “Guitar in High School”. Essay Topic: What do you feel were the important points made about teaching methods in this article? Rehearse Guitar Ensemble.

Week 4- Essay 1 due. Teach Guitar Class. Required Reading: “The College Guitar Ensemble”. Essay Topic: Discuss the advantages of teaching guitar students in an ensemble setting?

Week 5- Essay 2 due. Rehearse Guitar Ensemble.

Week 6- Required Reading: “The Peripatetic Teacher”. Essay Topic: What important points did the author make about different methods (styles and techniques) of teaching in this article? Teach Guitar Class.

Week 7- Essay 3 due. Rehearse Guitar Ensemble.

Week 8- Required Reading: “The Private Teacher”. Essay Topic: What points did the author make about the teacher’s responsibility to the student not only in its musical but social context? What are your thoughts on this subject? Teach Guitar Class.

Week 9- Essay 4 due. Essay 5 Topic: Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the different forms of guitar notation (staff notation, tablature and block diagrams). What applications are they best suited for? Rehearse Guitar Ensemble.

Week 10- Essay 5 due. Teach Guitar Class.

Week 11- Required Reading: Shearer, p. 1; Parkening, pgs. 78-79. Rehearse Guitar Ensemble.

Week 12- Required Reading: Shearer, pgs. 10-14; 30-31; 38-39. Parkening, pgs. 8-9; 12-15. Teach Guitar Class.

Week 13- Essay 6 Topic: Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the “chordal-plectrum” and the “classic/ single-note/ fingerstyle” methods of teaching guitar. Compare and contrast these two approaches not only from the standpoint of physical technique but also from the standpoint of different genres of music. Rehearse Guitar Ensemble.

Week 14-15 Essay 6 due.

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-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. Email: mschwartz@sulross.edu.

Important dates for Fall 2016:

Aug. 25- Last day for late registration and schedule changes

Sept. 5- Labor Day Holiday, no classes

Sept. 16- Last day to apply for Dec. graduation without a late fee.

Nov. 11- 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.

Nov. 23-25 Thanksgiving Holidays