

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Music 126 – Class Guitar I

2 hours lecture, 2 units

Catalog Description

Beginning course in guitar for non-music majors. Fundamentals of music as related to the guitar including chords and reading staff notation.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Reading and playing simple solos, duets and arrangements
- 2) Open first position chords in the keys of C and G major
- 3) Basic chord structures and accompaniment patterns
- 4) Rhythms using quarter and eighth notes in simple meters

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Read and play simple guitar music from staff notation
- 2) Play basic first position chords with rudimentary right hand strumming patterns
- 3) Change between chords while maintaining a consistent rhythm
- 4) Read and perform rhythms using quarter and eighth notes

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) In-class observation of students to measure their ability to read and play simple guitar music from staff notation, play first position chords, change chords while maintaining consistent rhythm, read and perform rhythms using quarter and eighth notes, play first position chromatic and major scales, and do simple transpositions and accompaniment patterns in two keys.
- 2) Written quizzes that measure students' ability to identify string names and numbers, as well as basic theory concepts such as note names, key signatures, time signatures, rhythmic values, and ties.
- 3) Midterm and final performance exams that measure students' ability to read and play simple guitar music from staff notation, play first position chords, change chords while maintaining consistent rhythm, read and perform rhythms using quarter and eighth notes.

Special Materials Required of Student

Acoustic or electric guitar

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Classroom with chairs without arms, music staff writing boards, music stands

Method of Instruction

- 1) In-class practice and drill

- 2) Lecture and discussion
- 3) Demonstration

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** assigned course content on staff notation, rhythmic values, key signatures, first-position chords, and basic accompaniment patterns; review chord charts, scale diagrams, and fingering guides.
- 2) **Writing:** short-answer assignments identifying note names, rhythmic values, time signatures, and first-position chord spellings; notate simple rhythmic or melodic exercises; write brief reflections on practice challenges and progress with chord changes or strumming pattern.
- 3) **Other:** practice assigned guitar exercises on acoustic or electric guitar, including simple melodies, first-position chords, chord-change drills, and basic strumming patterns; rehearse assigned solos or duets using staff notation; listen to recordings to internalize rhythmic patterns and develop familiarity with basic guitar tone and style.

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative example): Sisler, Tad. *GUITAR MASTERY: A Complete Guide: Basics to Virtuoso in Ten Easy Steps*. Modern Renaissance Publishing, 2024.
- 2) Supplemental: Handouts prepared by instructor

Exit Skills

Students having successfully completed this course exit with the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge:

- 1) Hold and execute open position chords.
- 2) Change open position chords without losing the beat.
- 3) Read and perform rhythms using quarter and eighth notes.
- 4) Read and play simple melodies in the keys of C and G major.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Hold and switch open position chords with clear tone and good rhythm.
- 2) Read and perform simple melodies from notation in the keys of C and G major.