

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

**Music 227 – Class Guitar IV**

2 hours lecture, 2 units

**Catalog Description**

Guitar for non-music majors. Continuation of MUS 226 with an emphasis on playing solos and accompaniments in various styles and idioms.

**Prerequisite**

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in MUS 226 or equivalent

**Entrance Skills**

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Play a complete solo guitar work using either plectrum or finger style technique.
- 2) Construct and play seventh chords using a four-string voicing family.
- 3) Read staff notation in II, V and VII positions.
- 4) Play a stylistically appropriate accompaniment pattern.
- 5) Play scales and chords with closed position fingerings in all major keys.
- 6) Perform ensemble music using rhythms up to eighth notes and closed positions.

**Course Content**

- 1) Reading and playing intermediate to advanced solo and ensemble music for the guitar
- 2) Chromatic and altered chord construction and fingerboard harmony
- 3) Sight reading studies in all fingerboard positions
- 4) Arpeggio and scale exercises using finger style technique
- 5) Arranging for solo guitar in contemporary idioms

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Read and play intermediate to advanced solo guitar music using both plectrum and finger style technique
- 2) Comprehend and apply chromatic chord construction, alterations and substitutions
- 3) Read staff notation of melodies in all key signatures covering the entire fingerboard
- 4) Perform intermediate to advanced level ensemble music
- 5) Create intermediate level solo guitar arrangements from lead sheets

**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 that measures a student’s ability to play intermediate to advanced solo guitar music using both plectrum and finger style technique, play chromatically altered seventh chords in closed position fingerings, and perform intermediate to advanced level ensemble music.
- 2) Midterm, final exam (written, performance) that measures a student’s ability to read staff notation in all key signatures, and create intermediate level solo guitar arrangements from lead sheets.

**Special Materials Required of Student**

Acoustic guitar and music manuscript notebook

**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:** intermediate to advanced solo and ensemble guitar scores; study materials on chromatic and altered chord construction and substitutions; review staff-notation sight-reading exercises that span the full fingerboard
- 2) **Writing:** short written analyses of assigned guitar works focusing on harmony and structure, write chord-construction exercises demonstrating altered seventh-chord voicings.
- 3) **Other:** regularly practice assigned solo and ensemble repertoire, scales, finger-style arpeggio patterns, and altered chord progressions; develop and intermediate solo-guitar arrangement based on a lead sheet: listening assignments that require identifying accompaniment patterns, stylistic characteristics, and examples of chord alteration in recorded guitar performances.

**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

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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

- 1) Create an intermediate level chord/melody solo guitar arrangement from a lead sheet.
- 2) Read notated melodies in all key signatures.