



HOUSATONIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE NAME: Guitar I

COURSE NUMBER: MUS* 141

CREDITS: 3

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Guitar 1 provides a basic foundation in guitar performance and musicianship. It assumes no previous experience in the guitar or general music. Literacy in standard notation, all the notes in the first position (first 4 frets), in correct rhythm is developed. Also established are skills in strumming chords for folk and popular music and ensemble playing.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

General Education Competencies Satisfied:

HCC General Education Requirement Designated Competency Attribute Code(s):

None

Additional CSCU General Education Requirements for CSCU Transfer Degree Programs:

None

Embedded Competency(ies):

None

Discipline-Specific Attribute Code(s):

FINA Fine Arts elective

Course objectives:

General Education Goals and Outcomes:

None

COURSE SPECIFIC:

1. Demonstrate basic foundational skills in guitar performance and musicianship.
2. Demonstrate ability to read in standard notation, all the notes in the first position (first 4 frets) of the guitar, with accurate rhythm and a steady pulse.
3. Demonstrate the ability to incorporate primary chords into a musical context.
4. Apply historically, aesthetically and culturally appropriate right hand fingerstyle technique to the repertoire studied.
5. Apply appropriate left hand fretting techniques.

6. Actively engage with guitar literature and arrangements from primarily the Western classical canon, but also including world folk music traditions and contemporary popular music through analysis and performance.
7. Articulate relevant historical, social, political, ethical, cultural, and/or aesthetic contexts for repertoire studied.

CONTENT:

- I. Primary foundational skills in academic and popular guitar performance
 1. Guitar-on-left-leg sitting position with the aid of a guitar footstool or other guitar elevation device (ie. for students with physical limitation) will be developed.
 2. Development of right hand fingerstyle techniques for playing melodies, arpeggios, and simple two-part textures consisting of melodies accompanied mostly by open strings in the bass, as well as strumming techniques for full chords as used in contemporary vocal accompaniment.
 3. Left hand technique will be developed to support the clear articulation of the above textures, as regards to thumb placement and precise use of the fingertips to depress strings.
- II. Staff notation literacy as applied to introductory guitar music
 1. Rhythmic notation (at least down to the diminution of the eighth-note) will be isolated and studied through class discussion and chosen repertoire.
 2. Pitch notation as it relates to the notes encountered in the class repertoire will be studied through class discussion and worksheet assignments. Pitch recognition will be established up to the full range of the first position (first 4 frets) of the guitar, with or without the incorporation of accidentals.
- III. Musicianship
 1. The development of counting time and maintaining a steady pulse while playing the guitar will be pursued through studying class repertoire and other physical activities (ie. clapping rhythms, verbally counting beats, etc.).
 2. Ensemble playing will be introduced by way of class repertoire which consists of duets for student(s) and instructor and/or two or three part repertoire for students.
- IV. Connection to the Humanities

1. Discussions and/or written assignments on the historical, social, political, cultural, and/or aesthetic dimensions of class repertoire which includes simple arrangements of music from the western classical canon, international folk music traditions (Spirituals, Latin, Caribbean, African, European, etc.), and American popular music.