San José State University
School of Music and Dance
MUSC 28, Guitar Fundamentals, Section 1, Fall 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructors: Rick Vandivier
Office Location: Room 186
Telephone: (650) 714-3323
Email: rick@rickvandivier.com
Office Hours: F 11:45AM -12:15PM; 2:30PM - 3:00PM
Other times by appointment

Class Days/Time: F 12:30PM – 2:20PM
Classroom: Music Building, Room 150
Prerequisites: None
GE/SJSU Studies Category: Music

Course Fees: Guitars are available to rent from the Music Department for the semester for a $30 music use fee. The forms to obtain a music use fee card are available in the Music Dept. Office, Room 179, and then Paul Olivo in Room 114 supplies your guitar.

Faculty Web Page: www.RickVandivier.com

Course Description: This course introduces the enjoyment of playing the guitar for self-expression, jamming with others, performing, and for teaching guitar in school. Participants will receive both the information and hands-on experience useful to play the guitar in a variety of styles.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Read Music
2. Tune the guitar
3. Hold the guitar in an ergonomic position
4. Accompany singing
5. Improvise and jam
6. Execute strumming patterns and rhythms
7. Play contemporary music and styles
8. Play classical and traditional pieces
9. Play blues
10. Perform fundamental chord forms; open position and bar chords
11. Play and notate pentatonic scales  
12. Play and notate major scales  
13. Perform with a pick  
14. Use Finger style technique  
15. Select an instrument for purchase  
16. Take care of the guitar  
17. Distinguish between types of guitars  
18. Identify the parts of the guitar  
19. Apply good technique for tone production

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook**
Alfred’s Basic Guitar Method Level 1  
Morty Manus and Ron Manus  
Third Edition  
Alfred Publishing Company  
Book: ISBN 0739047930  

**Other Readings**
Class handouts

**Other equipment / material requirements**
A guitar of student level quality or above is required for this course. Appropriate quality guitars can be rented for the semester at room 114 of the music building by obtaining a Music Use Fee card for $30.00.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**
SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

**Other course requirements:**
Active class participation  
Playing/practice time of forty-five minutes per day, six days per week to develop skills  
The average weekly assignment entails memorizing 3-6 new chords, preparing two pieces of music, and 4 pages in the course method/text book.  
Quizzes, midterm, and final exam  
The Final is Tuesday, December 20th, 12:15 - 2:30 PM

NOTE that University policy F69-24 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure
maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

**Grading Policy**

Each participant’s grade is the summation of the following:

- **20% Weekly in-class demonstration of progress, participation, quizzes and assignments.** An important component of weekly participation is the proficient and audible playing with other students.

- **40% Midterm test October 7th in class:** Test includes a written portion and a playing portion. If a student misses the midterm it can be taken on October 14th with an automatic reduction of 10% percent of their test score.

- **40% Final test Tuesday, December 20th, 12:15 - 2:30 PM:** Test includes a written portion and a playing portion.

Note: “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) for more details.

**Classroom Protocol**

- a. SJSU guitars are to be handled and maintained with the utmost care.
- b. To maximize class potential, each student shall take special care to be considerate of all participants, especially regarding sound in the classroom.
- c. During instruction periods of the class, students must refrain from talking to each other, and playing their instruments. Students that forget will receive two warnings. If a third incident occurs, the student will be asked to leave the class for that day.
- d. Students are expected to arrive on time and remain for the entire period. The classroom door will be closed at 12:35 at which time no additional students will be admitted. e. As per University policy F69-24, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class.”
- f. Water may be brought to class, but no other beverages or food is permitted in class.
- g. Quizzes and assignments missed due to an excused absence may be made up at a time designated by the instructor.
- h. Use of cell phones and/or laptops for tuning apps and recording class material is welcome, but use of cell phones for any other purpose, such as messaging, photos, or email is allowed only outside of class time. Students that violate this policy will be required to turn their phones off.
i. University Policies: the following link contains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. University Policies

**Music 28, Guitar Fundamentals, Fall 2016, Fridays 12:30-2:20**

*This schedule is subject to change with fair notice via class announcement or email.*

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/26/16</td>
<td>Holding the guitar, hand positions, guitar terminology, one finger chords</td>
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<td>Pages 1-10 in Alfred’s Guitar method,</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/2/16</td>
<td>2 finger chords, 3 finger chords, strumming patterns, book pages 11-14</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>The E minor pentatonic scale on the 1st string</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/9/16</td>
<td>Classic rock songs, more 3 finger chords, E minor pentatonic on the 2nd string</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Book pages 15-19, group jamming</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/16/16</td>
<td>Blues in A, 4 finger chords, E minor pentatonic on the 3rd string</td>
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<td>Book pages 19-22, group jam, Songs, i.e. Stay w/Me, Knocking’ on Heaven’s Door</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/23/16</td>
<td>A minor pentatonic on 1st string, more 4 finger chords,</td>
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<td>Book pages 23-26, group jam, Song, i.e. Black horse and the Cherry Tree</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9/30/16</td>
<td>Midterm, Intro to bar chords, Song i.e. You and Me</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Book pages 27-31, A minor pentatonic on 2nd string</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/7/16</td>
<td>Midterm, Intro to bar chords, Song, i.e. You and Me</td>
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<td>Book pages 32-35</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/14/16</td>
<td>Bar chords with root on the 6th String, Song i.e Dock of the Bay</td>
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<td>10/21/16</td>
<td>Song, i.e., Bad Fish, jamming on blues, bar chord practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/28/16</td>
<td>Bar chords with root on the 5th String, E minor pentatonic in 7th position</td>
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<td>11/4/16</td>
<td>I-IV-V, and I-VI-II-V progressions with bar chords</td>
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<td>11/18/16</td>
<td>Songs i.e. Tighten Up (Black Keys), Summertime (Gershwin)</td>
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<td>11/11/16</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/2/16</td>
<td>Songs i.e. All of Me (John Legend), Best Day of My Life</td>
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<td>12/9/16</td>
<td>Semester Review, song requests</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam - Room 150</td>
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