L121 - BEGINNING GUITAR CLASS AND STYLES (3cr.)

Lecturer

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LAB instructors

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Course Description

This course is intended as an introduction to acoustic and classical guitar playing techniques employed in contemporary guitar styles in a classroom lab setting (50 min twice a week), and as an introduction to guitar styles, history and techniques and development of critical listening skills in a lecture setting (50 min once a week).

Lecture (50 min once a week)

Introduction to guitar styles and history through key guitar players and various types of guitars. As part of the lecture students will attend four live guitar concerts, performed by professional guitarists, including international guest artists.

Playing-based Guitar Lab (50 minutes twice a week):

Introduction to contemporary guitar techniques employed in various guitar styles (rock, pop, classical, country) while learning to play actual songs. The course will include basic open and bar chords, music reading (notation and tablatures) and basic finger style
techniques. L121 will also cover basic music theory necessary for playing songs and getting basic fret board knowledge.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Students will learn how to play and build basic chords on the guitar, how to read and play single notes and simple rhythms and how to play songs using this knowledge.
2. Students will improve creative skill through performance.
3. Students will improve skills of working effectively with others.
4. Students will broaden their knowledge of the instrument by becoming familiar with guitar history and styles, repertoire, and different guitar types.
5. Students will learn how to listen and criticize recorded and live guitar performances.
6. Students will learn to construct written critiques of musical performances.
7. Students will learn to research and write about music and musicians.

**Course requirements**

1. Bring your own guitar (Acoustic or Classical)
2. Bring Clicker to the lectures
3. Attend and actively participate in lecture and lab.
4. Practice and prepare assigned materials.
5. Attend **four** guitar concerts and write a review on aspects of observed performances.
   All concerts are **free** of charge and held at IU Jacobs School of Music - Make sure to sign up to concerts during your LABs.
6. Take all exams. Missing either the midterm or final exam will automatically result in failing the course.
Grading

20 points………………………. Attendance (Lecture)
* Lecture: for each unexcused absence attendance grade will be lowered
* LAB: More than five LAB absences will result in automatic failure of the course.
36 points………………………. Guitar concerts review papers
20 points………………………. Midterm and Final exams (Written and Playing)
7 points………………………. Assignments
7 points………………………. Participation (Lecture and LABs)
10 points………………………. Final Project
100 points……………………….Total

Exams

Based on lectures and LAB materials.

Playing Exams will be based on LAB topics; students are expected to perform songs and exercises from the required textbook.

Written Exams will be based on lecture and LAB subjects. Both midterm and final exams are given during the lecture at Sweeney Hall.

Guitar concert review

Based on live concerts observed by students; these reviews are expected to reflect topics covered during lectures and Labs. The guidelines for the concert review paper can be found in the appendix of the required textbook.

Concert Review Format

• Minimum of 1500 words (double space)
• The paper should contain observations of all four concerts attended by student.
• Student must attach four stamped concert programs to the paper upon its submission.

*Note: Make sure you write down your observations as you attend concerts, so that you have all the details when you write your full four-concert review.

Concert Dates

Website: http://music.indiana.edu/departments/academic/guitar/events.shtml

Policy of Concert Attendance

Students must arrive to the concert location prior to the beginning of the concert and collect a Concert Program containing general information about the upcoming performance. As soon as performances are over, a representative of the guitar department will be outside of the concert hall stamping Concert Programs. Stamped Concert Programs must be attached to the concert review paper in order to validate your attendance.

• Concert Programs will only be available five minutes into the performance; students that arrive more than five minutes late won’t have access to a Concert Program, therefore, they won’t be able to write a concert review on that given performance.

• Students must sign up for concerts prior to arriving at the concert hall in order to guarantee admission (Sign up with LAB instructor during LABs prior to the concert).

Final Project

Students will compose their own songs (chord sequences) using tools provided by instructors during the semester. The composition aims to enhance student’s creative
skills, therefore grades will be based on project submission. Once project is completed students will obtain full credit for their work.

**Policy on absences**

Students may have five LAB absences during the semester; any absences beyond five will result in automatic failure of the course. Students will loose points from class attendance grade for each unexcused absence from the lectures.

In order to be excused from a lecture you must submit an excuse letter prior to the lecture you will be missing. If you are sick, you will need to bring a doctor’s note demonstrating that you were sufficiently incapacitated to attend the class for that day.

**Disability Services for Students**

If you require assistance or appropriate academic accommodations for a disability, please contact the instructor after class, during office hours or by individual appointment. You must have established your eligibility for disability support services through the Office of Disability Services for Students in the Wells Library W302, 855-7578. More info: [http://studentaffairs.iub.edu/dss/](http://studentaffairs.iub.edu/dss/)

**Important dates**

**Practical midterm exam**

October 10th (LABs on Mondays and Wednesdays) or October 11th (LABs on Tuesdays and Thursdays)

**Written midterm exam**

October 12th (Written exam containing Lecture and LAB content) at 4:30 PM in Sweeney Hall.

**Practical final exam**

December 5th (LABs on Mondays and Wednesdays) December 6th (LABs on Tuesdays and Thursdays)
Final written exam

December 16th between 5:00 and 7:00 PM in Sweeney Hall (Regular lecture location)

Final Project deadline

To be submitted with your final practical exam (submission to LAB instructor)

Concert Review paper deadline

To be submitted with your final practical exam (submission to LAB instructor)

Textbook

Guitar Class course pack for MUS – L101/121, available in all IU bookstores. If the bookstore is out of the packet, please place a prepaid special order and the bookstore will get it for you very quickly.

Clickers

Students must bring clickers to all lectures. The devices may be purchased or rented at TIS.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to change)

Week 1

- Syllabus
- Course Overview
- What is a guitar (from lute to electric)

Week 2

Critical Listening: Music Appreciation and the educated listener

Week 3
The Electric Guitar: history and styles

**Week 4**
The Electric Guitar: Players and Techniques

**Week 5**
Riffs

**Week 6**
The Acoustic Guitar: History, Styles, Players and Techniques

**Week 7**
Review

**Week 8**
Written Midterm

**Week 9**
The Six String Classical Guitars: History, composers and Works

**Week 10**
Instrument demonstration

**Week 11 – 14**
Concert attendance, November 2nd to November 23rd - lecture resumes on November 30th (lecture is off for four weeks; each concert counts as a lecture)

**Week 15**
Final written exam Review

**Week 16**
Final Written Exam

**Campus Map – Jacobs School of Music**

MA = Music Addition
MU = Merrill Hall
M= Music Arts Center
For more information regarding Concert Halls:
http://music.indiana.edu/about/performance-halls/index.shtml