

**Bergen Community College**  
Division of Business, Arts, and Social Sciences  
Visual and Performing Arts Department

**Course Syllabus**

**MUS-137 Guitar Workshop**

**Basic Information about Course and Instructor**

Semester and year:  
Course and Section Number:  
Meeting Times and Locations:  
Instructor:  
Office Location:  
Phone:  
Departmental Secretary: [optional]  
Office Hours:  
Email Address:

**Course Description**

**MUS-137 Guitar Workshop** provides group instruction in guitar, designed to develop the student's level of proficiency. This course introduces the students to the basic skills of guitar playing including correct hand positions, understanding the fingerboard starting with open position, playing scales, chords and basic concepts of music theory applied to the guitar. The student will be introduced to a variety of guitar playing styles including classical guitar, acoustic folk/rock guitar, electric guitar, blues and jazz.

2 lectures, 2 labs, 3 credits  
No prerequisites

**Student Learning Objectives:** As a result of meeting the requirements in this course, students will be able to:

1. tune the guitar and hold the guitar in proper position;
2. interpret and perform musical works using basic musical notation;
3. perform chords in the first position;
4. perform group I major and minor chords;
5. perform group I major and minor scales, chromatic, pentatonic and blues scales;
6. perform melodies and chord progressions in various musical styles.

**Learning Assessment**

The Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) in this course are intended to be aligned with the overall Learning Goals of the Music Program. In addition, student progress in reaching the course's SLOs is to be assessed through various means of assessment, such as the "Suggested Means of Assessment" listed below.

Student Learning Objective	Suggested Means of Assessment
1. Tune the guitar and hold the guitar in proper position;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance evaluations</li><li>• Homework Assignments</li></ul>
2. Interpret and perform musical works using basic musical notation;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance evaluations</li><li>• Homework assignments</li></ul>

3. Perform chords in the first position;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance evaluations</li> <li>• Homework assignments</li> </ul>
4. Perform group I major and minor chords;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance evaluations</li> <li>• Homework assignments</li> </ul>
5. Perform group I major and minor scales, chromatic, pentatonic and blues scales;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance evaluations</li> <li>• Homework assignments</li> </ul>
6. Perform melodies and chord progressions in various musical styles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance evaluations</li> <li>• Homework assignments</li> </ul>

### Course Content

This workshop is an exploratory class, introducing the students to many styles of guitar playing, including classical guitar, acoustic folk/rock guitar, and electric guitar. Playing techniques, reading music and how to put songs together in a group setting are all included in this workshop,

- Tuning the guitar in standard and alternate tunings
- Playing Position
- Left and Right hand technique
- Reading musical notation
- Notes in the first position
- Understanding chord progressions
- Major and Minor chords, 7<sup>th</sup> chords and diminished chords
- Major and Minor scales (natural, harmonic and melodic)
- Chromatic scales Rhythmic studies
- Repertoire for the guitar
- Reading a guitar lead sheet
- Introducing new chords
- Getting familiar with chord progressions and how to write your own
- Strumming patterns
- 12 Bar Blues Form
- Finding Key centers
- Picking techniques
- Power chords
- Drop D tuning
- Sonority of ii, iii and vi chords
- Introduction to Barre chords
- Pentatonic scales
- Song Performance Projects

Scales: Major: C, G, D. Minor: A harmonic/natural minor, E harmonic/natural minor. Compass one octave.

Articulations:

- 1) Alternate picking in quarter notes
- 2) Double-picking (eighth notes)

Chords: Major- C,G,D, A, E, F

Minor: Am, Em, Dm

Dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chords: E7, A7, B7, G7

Form 1 Barre chords (root on 6<sup>th</sup> string)

Form 2 Barre chords (root on 5<sup>th</sup> string)

**Special Features of the Course** (if any) [to be designated by the instructor]

E.g., the use of learning technologies in the course (Internet, PowerPoint, web enhancement via a parallel course website, etc.); the inclusion of technological literacy learning in the course; etc.

**Course Texts and/or Other Study Materials**

*Mastering the Guitar, Class Method Level 1/Beginning* by William Bay & Mike Christiansen- Mel Bay Publications

All students are expected to furnish their own guitar (acoustic or electric), straps, picks, and tuner.

Alternative textbooks or resources can be used by individual faculty with permission of the music discipline textbook committee. The Faculty Senate "Policy on the Selection of Texts and Other Instructional Materials," states that "individual faculty members and/or departments should strive to select texts, whenever possible, that are most affordable for students."

**Grading Policy**

A student's final grade for the course is based primarily on his or her performance on the required work for the course (writing assignments, examinations, class presentations, etc.) and on his or her overall mastery of the material covered in the course. A student's class participation may also be evaluated, and the grade thereon may be used as a factor in determining the student's final grade for the course; but a class participation grade will count for no more than twenty percent (20%) of the final grade. A student's research and writing work will count at least fifty percent (50%) of the final grade.

**BCC Attendance Policy**

All students are expected to attend punctually every scheduled meeting of each course in which they are registered. Attendance and lateness policies and sanctions are to be determined by the instructor for each section of each course. These will be established in writing on the individual course outline. Attendance will be kept by the instructor for administrative and counseling purposes.

**Attendance Policy in this Course**

[To be designated by the instructor]

**Other College, Divisional, and/or Departmental Policy Statements** [optional but recommended]

<p><u>Examples:</u>  Statement on plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty.  ADA statement.  Sexual Harassment statement.  Statement on acceptable use of BCC technology.  Statement on the purpose and value of faculty office hours.</p>
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**Student and Faculty Support Services** [optional but recommended]

List support services, e.g., the Writing Center, the Math Lab, the Tutorial Center, Online Writing Lab (OWL), Office of Specialized Services, etc. Include information on the BCC Library.

Example:

**Student and Faculty Support Services**

The Distance Learning Office – for any problems you may have accessing your online courses	Room C-334	201-612-5581 <a href="mailto:psimms@bergen.edu">psimms@bergen.edu</a>
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English Language Resource Center	Room C-212	<a href="http://www.bergen.edu/elrc">http://www.bergen.edu/elrc</a>
The Tutoring Center	Room L-125	201-447-7908 <a href="http://www.bergen.edu/tutoring">http://www.bergen.edu/tutoring</a>
The Writing Center	Room L-125	201-447-7908 <a href="http://www.bergen.edu/owl">http://www.bergen.edu/owl</a>
The Office of Specialized Services (for Students with Disabilities)	Room S-131	201-612-5270 <a href="http://www.bergen.edu/oss">http://www.bergen.edu/oss</a>
BCC Library – Reference Desk	Room L-226	201-447-7436

### Special Note on the Tutoring Center

**The Henry and Edith Cerullo Learning Assistance Center** encompasses the Tutoring Center, the English Language Resource Center, and the Writing Center. The website of the Learning Assistance Center is located at <https://bergen.edu/current-students/student-support-services/tutoring/>. Tutoring services are available for this course in the Tutoring Center. As listed above, the Tutoring Center is located in Room L-125, and its phone number is 201-447-7908.

### Special Note on the Food Pantry

**The Bergen Community College Center for Food Action** is available to meet the urgent needs of members of our campus community. The Food Pantry provides non-perishable food items, toiletries, and additional support services in an environment that emphasizes discretion and confidentiality. Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to visit C-111A) Tuesday from 9am-1pm and Thursday from 2pm-6pm. Please call 201-447-7191 for more information.

- The Office of Specialized Services (for Students with Disabilities) Room S-131 201-612-5270  
[www.bergen.edu/oss](http://www.bergen.edu/oss)
- The Sidney Silverman Library – Reference Desk Room L-226 201-447-7436

### Include a Course Outline and Calendar [can be combined in a single syllabus section]

The Course Outline and Calendar must include all of the following elements:

- A daily or (at least) weekly schedule of topics to be covered.
- Dates for exams, quizzes, or other means of assessment. (This does not mean that all evaluation of students must be in groups and at the same time. Exams and other means of assessment can be listed as "to be scheduled individually.")
- Due dates for major assignments – e.g., when is a paper due; if the topic has to be approved, when; if an outline or draft is an interim step, when it is due.
- Any required special events must be included in the outline/calendar, e.g., a lecture by a visiting speaker, a dramatic or musical performance, a field trip.
- Designation of Student Learning Objectives – by number – for each topic (see sample below).
- A note to students stating that the course outline and calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.

### Sample Format for Course Outline and Calendar

**Note to Students:** The following Course Outline and Calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.

Week(s)	Date(s)	Topics & Assignments	Learning Objectives
1			
2			

3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

See the Sample Course Outline and Calendar below.

### SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

[with designation of Student Learning Objectives – by number – for each topic]

**Note to Students:** The following Course Outline and Calendar is tentative and subject to change, depending upon the progress of the class.

Week(s)	Date(s)	Topic/Activity/Assignments	Student Learning Objectives
1	Sep 6, 8	How to Tune the guitar Playing positions 1. pick style 2. right hand finger picking 3. left hand fingering Names of the Strings on the Guitar Basic Rudiments of Music: Chords <b>Assignment: Read and practice: Mel Bay Method- introduction, reading chord symbols, reading chords and rhythm. Page 14-19</b> <b>Chords to measured music pg.9</b>	1-6
2	Sep 13, 15	Reading notes on 2 <sup>nd</sup> string pg. 22-23 Songs on page 24 Learning chord qualities (major, minor, 7 <sup>th</sup> and diminished) Meter/Time signature Playing chords to measured music Scale studies <b>Assignment: study songs on page 24 to play in class</b>	1-6
3	Sep 20, 22	Reading notes on 3 <sup>rd</sup> string pg.27 The dotted half-note, slurs and hammer-ons, review of 1 <sup>st</sup> 3 strings (pg.28) Review of chord types <b>Assignment: study songs on pg. 28 to play in class</b>	1-6
4	Sep 27, 29	Reading notes on the 4 <sup>th</sup> string pg.40 Em and D chords/ Am and D7 Songs on pg. 32 Strum patterns pg. 34-35 <b>Assignment: Play chords to songs on pgs. 32-37</b> <b>Practice and play Cripple Creek, pg. 41</b>	1-6
5	Oct 4, 6	Reading notes on 5 <sup>th</sup> string, pg 45 Accompaniment patterns for songs	1-6

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		Pentatonic Scales Major Scales Arpeggio picking Hungarian Dance #4 (pg. 46) Dotted quarter-note <b>Assignment: study Hungarian Dance #4, chords and melody.</b>	
6	Oct 11, 13	Reading notes on 6 <sup>th</sup> string, pg. 49 The C major scale pg. 53 F and Dm chords pg.62 Rock- Blues Solos <b>Assignment: Review all notes in the 1<sup>st</sup> position,          Practice the C major scale, practice Flying South, pg 57., read          about chords in the key of C (pg. 62)</b>	1-6
7	Oct 18, 20	The Blues progressions, pg 73 The I-IV-V progression Chords in the Key of C Syncopated strums Sharps and Flats Spanish Groove, pg .70 <b>Assignment: Listen to Blues, early Blues and B.B. King, practice          blues progressions in different keys, pg. 73. and play pg. 74.</b>	1-6
8	Oct 25, 27	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	1-6
9	Nov 1, 3	Reading Sheet Music Power Chords, pg 77 Key of A minor, pg 84 Chord Theory Reading Sheet music Song Forms <b>Assignment: practice pg 81 and 83.</b>	1-6
10	Nov 8, 10	The Chromatic Scale Improvisation Techniques Compound Time signatures (6/8 time) Chordal Harmony and progressions Harmonizing the Scale <b>Assignment: Memorize the chords in the key of C. Play the I-IV-V          progression in the key of C, G, D, A, E.</b>	1-6
11	Nov 15, 17	Ensemble and group playing Arpeggios Modal scales Popular song progressions ii-V-I progression <b>Assignment: Practice a song from sheet music and play chords.</b>	1-6
12	Nov 22, 24	Finger-picking patterns, pg .120 Chords in the Key of G, pg. 119 Key of E minor and the E minor scale, pg 124 <b>Assignment: practice songs in E minor, pg.123</b>	1-6
13	Nov 29, Dec 1	Six-Eight Time, pg. 130 Global Rhythms, (Flamenco, Latin, Bossa Nova, and more) <b>Assignment: research traditional music for guitar and styles          unfamiliar to you.          Practice pg. 130</b>	1-6
14	Dec 6,8	Ensemble Playing Solo improvisation and accompanying	1-6

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15	Dec 13, 15	<b>Review for final exam</b>	
		<b>Final Exam</b>	1-6

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Revised May 27, 2018