

# BUTTE COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

#### MUS 20 - Guitar I

1 Unit(s)

**Prerequisite(s):** NONE

**Limitation on Enrollment:** Selected by audition

**Recommended Prep:** NONE

**Transfer Status:** CSU/UC

8.5 hours Lecture

25.5 hours Lab

This course consists of individualized study of the appropriate techniques and repertoire for the guitar. The focus of the course is on fundamentals: reading music, posture, hand position, fingering, rhythm, chord structure and progressions, and performance. Emphasis is on the progressive development of skills needed for solo performance. Achievement is evaluated through a juried performance. This course is primarily intended for music majors. (C-ID MUS 160).

### II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Play with precise rhythm.
- B. Play the correct pitches with accurate intonation.
- C. Play with the articulation, dynamics, phrasing, and expression appropriate to the literature being studied.
- D. Play in a stylistically appropriate manner suitable to the genre, period, and style of the literature.
- E. Perform improvised solos as applicable.
- F. Demonstrate appropriate blend and balance when performing with another musician.
- G. Memorize performance literature when appropriate to the performance medium and artistic tradition.

### III. COURSE CONTENT

#### A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

##### Lecture

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Introduction of the guitar fingerboard, chord charts and finger exercises	2.00
2. Guitar tuning methods	1.00
3. Guitar tablature and rhythmic symbols	2.00
4. Introduction of standard musical notation	2.00
5. Sight reading standard musical notation	1.50
Total Hours	8.50

##### Lab

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Reading guitar tablature and symbols as well as standard musical notation; how they compare.	4.00
2. Country and folk accompaniment in 3/4 and 4/4 time	2.00
3. Major scales in first position	2.00
4. Sight reading standard musical notation	2.00

5. Introduction of rock and popular accompaniment styles	2.50
6. Discussion of rhythmic variations and bass runs	2.50
7. Basic finger picking in 3/4 time	2.00
8. Explanation of key signatures, circle of 5th and transposing	3.00
9. Arpeggio style finger picking in 4/4 time	4.00
10. Review and group practice	1.50
Total Hours	25.50

#### IV. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture
- B. Instructor Demonstrations
- C. Collaborative Group Work
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- E. Multimedia Presentations

#### V. **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Final Examination
- C. Performance Examinations
- D. Short papers
- E. Subjective judgment of improvement determined by instructor

#### VI. **EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Reading Assignments
  - 1. Read articles in "Guitar Player" magazine about guitar technique. Select one guitar tab, practice it, and be prepared to demonstrate it in class.
  - 2. Read an article in a back issue of Guitar Player magazine on-line on effective practice techniques. Be prepared to discuss in class.
- B. Writing Assignments
  - 1. Research Stevie Ray Vaughan and write a 1500 word research paper about his influences and his guitar technique.
  - 2. Attend a concert where the guitar is the primary instrument or plays a substantial role in the concert and write a 2-3 page paper detailing your experience.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
  - 1. Practice your scales and barre chords for a minimum of 6 hours per week.
  - 2. Select one of your favorite songs, learn to play it, and be prepared to demonstrate in class.

#### VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Leavitt, W. Modern Method for Guitar. Berklee Press, 2010.
- B. Schmid, W.. Hal Leonard Guitar Method. 2nd Edition. Hal Leonard Publishing, 2009.

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Guitar in playable condition
- B. Flatpick
- C. Music notation book

**Created/Revised by:** Mark Latham  
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