

**Sam Houston State University - School of Music**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Course:** GUI 101X01; 101X02; 301X01; 301X02; 301X03 Guitar Instruction  
**Semester:** Fall Semester, 2007  
**Classroom:** Fine Arts Building, Room 205  
**Meeting Times:** Arranged with instructor

<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. James M. Bankhead	<b>Phone:</b> (936) 294-3808
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<b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment only	

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Guitar students will be given a choice the first semester of study, after detailed explanation and demonstration by the instructor, whether to pursue plectrum or classical technique. Classical guitar will be required by the second semester for at least one or more semesters.

The plectrum or pick style consists of:

- a. Development of alternate up/down strokes for scales and arpeggios
- b. Striking various string combinations, including “deadened” string chords as used in jazz movable chord formations

The classical technique includes:

- a. Proper relaxed placement of the right hand so as to insure maximum flexibility, speed, and tone production
- b. Correct use of rest stroke (apoyando) and free stroke (tirando)
- c. Care and use of the right hand nails
- d. An introduction and survey of music from the major periods

Both areas of study will include:

- a. Correct use of the left hand, with finger tip arched hand position
- b. Ability to sight read all of the notes in first position from a book one method. As the student continues to study in later semesters, sight reading will include the higher positions in all keys
- c. Two octave major, natural minor, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales. Continued study will include the modes, whole tone and diminished scales, and altered scales
- d. First position chords, bar chords, and altered movable chords. Continued study will include jazz improvisation, reading big band charts, and writing chord melody solos. Classical students will learn how to prepare pieces for performance

**PREREQUISITE:** Acceptance into the studio instruction is by audition only.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The student will:

- Perform with Correct technique
- Develop the discipline of attention to detail; using correct fingering, accurate rhythm and counting and phrasing
- Play pieces from memory

Perform for a jury at the end of the semester

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

Students are required to have their own guitar (wide neck classical or hollow body jazz styles preferred; solid body rock instruments can be used if necessary).

Students must have their own picks, finger picks, tuning devices and foot stools.

### **Required Text:**

There is no required text. Music and other performance materials will be provided.

**General Information:** Students must bring their guitar, picks, stools and all other materials to class daily. Students will be required to take class notes.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** students are responsible for completing ALL assignments.

- No extension of time to complete required assignments will be given.
- Due dates/times are not negotiable.

### **GRADING**

Student grades will be determined by the following:

- a. Practice. Practice should be daily and for at least 1 ½ hours
- b. Attendance – no more than two absences or schedule changes before the grade is reduced
- c. Performance jury – required. The student will perform at least two selections from memory as assigned.
- d. There will be three playing tests during the semester that will be factored into the grade

Class attendance is heavily weighted; improvement in all skill areas will be graded.

**Attitude** – a cooperative, pleasant working relationship in class is appreciated and expected.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### **General Information on Attendance:**

1. **Students will not be penalized for two or fewer absences**
2. A student's final grade will be lowered 10 points (one letter grade) for each absence past the 2nd absence
3. A student's final grade will be lowered 1 point for each tardy (Two tardies will be considered as one absence.)
4. A student is counted as being in attendance when:
  - a. The student is physically sitting in his/her assigned seat
  - b. The student has all materials necessary to perform the class activities as required
  - c. The student and the instrument are properly warmed-up (as assigned)
  - d. The student is attentive and ready to participate in class
5. Students are provided a daily sign-up sheet on which to record their attendance. It is the student's responsibility to insure that the sheet is signed.

**Attendance and punctuality are required.**

Should any variance occur, direct communication is *expected*. (**Document each/every communication by e-mail, please.**) Assignments **will not** be accepted past the date for which they were announced except in extreme cases. Special permission must be received from the professor for these cases. Additionally, one letter grade for each day (beginning immediately after the deadline date) must be subtracted from the earned grade for the assignment. Any variation from any policy will have to be, quite naturally, at the discretion of the instructor.

The University catalogue states that in a regular class "A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations **or OTHER ASSIGNED CLASSWORK have not been missed**; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences (2 class meetings for T-day classes)."

In any performance-based the final grade is affected subjective judgment by the instructor. Among the most influential factors on a student's grade in class are ATTITUDE and ATTENDANCE, PREPARATION and "PERFORMANCE." As you surely would assume, these four factors override almost all others. **Cooperation** is expected.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

The University policies regarding academic honesty will be followed and strictly enforced.

**PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR/RULES OF CONDUCT**

" Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute all cellular phones and/or pagers before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class (except on specified occasions), using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy."

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excised under this subsection may

not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused with a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examination are to be completed.

### **Visitors In The Classroom**

The class will be host to visitors at numerous times during the semester. All courtesies should be extended to visitors at all times. When visitors are present, the class will proceed as usual. Any class member who would like to bring a visitor to class should obtain permission from the instructor prior to that time.

"Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom." (from University Policy)