

Course Syllabus
Fundamentals of Guitar
Spring, 2008

- I. Course Number: Mus 162 Sections 1 & 2 (CID#2871 & 2872) - 3 Credit Hours
Room Location: Mus 201
Class Hours: Mon.&Wed.-3:00-4:30, 4:30-6:00
- II. Instructor: J. James Johnson
Office: Mus 221, School of Music
Phone: 294-3259 (Office), 294-9751 (Home)
E-Mail: jjjohnson@shsu.edu
- III. Course Description: Basic guitar technique for the beginning student is combined with a study of the fundamentals of music notation. Method of instruction will include lectures and application of concepts on the guitar. There will be three written tests and a playing final. Homework will consist of written assignments and thirty minutes of daily practice.
- IV. Course Objectives:
1. To become familiar with the techniques of guitar: (a) tuning the guitar, (b) strumming, (c) finger picking, and (d) using picks and capos.
 2. To recognize chord symbols and apply that knowledge to accompany songs on the guitar.
 3. To develop performance skills in playing chords and melodies on the guitar.
- V. Textbooks and Required Materials: It is the student's responsibility to obtain the following instructional materials at the beginning of the semester:
- * 1. The Hands-On Guitar Method by Wayne Johnson
 - * 2. Hal Leonard Guitar Method Book 1 by Will Schmid and Greg Koch
 - * 3. 4-Music Pocketbooks: (1) Rock & Blues Guitar, (2) Bluegrass, Country & Folk Guitar, (3) Guitar Chords, and (4) Music Fundamentals (Theory)
 - * 4. A Guitar Tuner
 - * 5. A Capo, a Guitar String Winder, 2 Extra Sets of Strings, and Picks
 - * 6. Handouts given in class
 - * 7. A song notebook to be created by the student (See attached Guitar Proficiency)
- VI. Attendance: In accordance with university policy, regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. Class attendance is a criterion for final determination of your grade. After three hours (or two class meetings) of absences, 2 written exam points will be subtracted for each absence. See the exam section for further points being subtracted on an exam day absence. The cumulative nature of this course and class performance requirements are such that attendance is necessary for the successful completion of this course.
- VII. Assignments: Homework assignments are due the following class meeting. A point will be subtracted for each class meeting the homework assignment is late.
- VIII. Exams: Three major written exams will be given during weeks 5, 10, and 16. Five points will be subtracted for make-up exams for the exam day absence and for each subsequent class meeting missed until the make-up exam is taken. After three hours (or two class meetings) of absences, 2 written exam points will be subtracted for each absence. The final performance exam (worth double) will be scheduled and given as indicated on the final exam schedule.

- IX. Grading Plan: Grades will be based on the average of the exams given (final performance exam is worth double): (total÷5) A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D=60-69%;and F = below 60%. Final grades will be posted online. Extra credit (1 written exam point each) can be gained by attending concerts where the guitar is performed.(proof is due before the third written test) May 8, 2008 is the last day to drop courses without a grade of F or to resign.
- X. Academic Honesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.
- XI. Classroom Rules of Conduct: According to university policy and Section 5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that that is conducive to learning. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.
- XII. Visitors in the Classroom: 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. The visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.
- XIII. 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.
- XIV. Religious Holidays: 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 excused 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 within 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 resent 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 in which the absence(s) will occur (February 6, 2008). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examination are to be completed.

- XV. Course/Instructor Evaluations: Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.
- XVI. Suggestions for Success/Study Tips: ***Practice at least thirty minutes daily***: slowly and consistently. Practice singing as you play through the songs. Photocopy the blank chord charts and tablature sheet and test yourself. Have a great semester!!
- XVII. See attached Course Outline and Guitar Proficiency.

**Fundamentals of Guitar
Course Outline
Spring, 2008**

(This course outline and schedule is tentative and may be subject to revision.)

Academic Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
JAN 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
28	Assignment 1
FEB 4	Assignment 2
6	Review for 1 st Written Test
13	1 st Written Test
MAR 10/12	SPRING BREAK !!!!!
17	Review for 2 nd Written Test
24	2 nd Written Test
APR 7	Sign-Up for Final Performance Exam
28	Review for 3 rd Written Test
MAY 5	3 rd Written Test
5-8	Final Performance Exam (30 songs due)
(8)	(Last day to drop a course)
(9)	(Final Exam Study Day)
14	Final Performance Exam (30 songs due)
15	Final Performance Exam (30 songs due)

Fundamentals of Guitar
Spring, 2008
Student Survey

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Age/ Classification: _____

Have you played guitar before?

Yes -

No -

If yes, are you a beginner?	Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>
Or are you proficient?	Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you know bar chords?	Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>
How many years have you played?	_____

Type of music you listen to most often: _____

Favorite popular song: _____

Songs you would like to learn to play on the guitar:

Anything else I would like to know about you: _____
