

West Shore Community College

MUS 115 – Basic Guitar  
Winter Semester 2017

Thursdays 5:30 pm – 7:20 pm  
Room #327

Instructor: Curt Isakson  
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231-282-0389 cell  
office hours – by appointment only

**Course Description:** (2 credit hours) A beginning guitar musicianship course designed to provide a student with introductory guitar skills including chords, basic strumming, finger-picking, guitar tablature reading, and beginning performance skills. All students will be expected to rehearse the techniques taught in class and be prepared to demonstrate the skills in class. To be successful in this class, each student should be ready to spend 3-4 hours per week on their instrument.

**Required Materials:** Guitar – acoustic preferred. If you don't have a guitar, we will supply you one the first day of class. Electrics will be allowed but no amplifiers needed. There will be many handouts and a 1½" 3-ring binder is required. The instructor will supply other materials. Smartphones will be allowed for instructional purposes only. Materials and links will be on our Canvas site.

**Course Goals:** Each student will learn the basics on guitar and will have an understanding of how to play basic guitar chords, understand chord progressions, and perform individually or as accompaniment for a performer. The student will also learn an understanding of tablature and learning songs by rote. The final project will include a video or live performance.

**Course Content:**

We will create our own course content with various handouts and student created materials. You will need a 3-ring binder.

**Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate care and tuning of instrument
- Understand and demonstrate basic chords and strumming
- Understand chord patterns and song structure
- Understand the basics of music theory and notation for guitar and learn to create lead sheets
- To develop the ability to analyze, describe, and listen to music
- The develop the ability to match pitch and sing on pitch
- To under the historical relevance of the studied music

**Evaluation:**

Grading: Each class will include a test of materials covered in class and individual playing to ensure comprehension. Course will also include various graded projects and playing tests. Rubrics will be supplied for each project.

Grades will be determined on the following basis:

- Day to day participation, practice, attitude, and effort
- Individual playing and performance tests
- Objective tests on the fundamentals of music
- Maintaining a notebook
- Solo and small group performances in the classroom
- Final project performance

**Grading:**

Participation-Attendance	240 points
Class Tests	100 points
Assignments	100 points
Notebook	100 points
Final Exam	200 points

A	94-100%
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	64-67
D-	60-63
F	Below 60

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required for all classes and you will be graded for your attendance. This class moves very quickly and the skills learned in class cannot be acquired in any other way. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to discover the material from other classmates or the instructor. Please contact the instructor on any issues you have.

**Class Cancellations:**

In the unlikely event that the instructor will not hold class due to a mitigating circumstance, WSCC will do their best to post the cancellation. The class will also be exchanging emails. E-mail will be the first line of communication. Any cancellations will be sent to the student via email in a timely manner.

**Tutorial Assistance:**

The support, Tutoring, and Resource Services (STaRS) program is available to provide free tutorial, disabilities, and other support services to West Shore Students. Contact Diann Neil Englade at ext. 5906 or stop by her office in the Campus Center, Room 761.