Applied Guitar: MUSA 1195 & 3295 Degree Plan Syllabus (The methodology and course of study in this syllabus will also apply to CRN # 1185, 1285, 3391)

Instructor: Shaun Mahoney
Office: Fox Fine Arts 403
Email: smahoney@utep.edu

Following is a description of the UTEP Guitar Program. This curriculum would apply to the following degrees:

- Jazz Performance
- Commercial Music

What follows is a list of requirements for each semester of study. A minimum of 8 semesters is required to complete a degree.

**Program Description**

This program is designed to deliver a comprehensive understanding and application of commercial guitar as it pertains to the following categories: Theory, Reading, Technique, Musicality/Performance, Transcription and Analysis, Rhythm Playing, Lead Playing, Solo Playing, and Playing in Groups.

**Program Objectives**

- To be able to understand music theory and its translation to the guitar. Specifically focusing on jazz theory and applying it to commercial music styles.

- To reach technical mastery on the guitar.

- To be a proficient sight-reader.

- To be proficient playing ‘rhythm guitar’ in commercial music styles. This means learning the supporting roles of guitar in commercial styles.

- To be proficient playing ‘lead guitar’ in commercial music styles. This means being able to improvise single lines in many commercial music styles.

- To be proficient playing ‘solo guitar’ in commercial music styles. This means being able to arrange, compose, and improvise while playing solo.

- To be proficient playing in different settings or different sized ensembles from duo to full big bands and orchestras.

- To perform all of these objectives with sensitivity to style and musicality.

**Program Goals**

1 Commercial music majors must complete the entire 8 semester, but need only give one recital. The performance degree
To be able to do the following:

- Complete all Program Objectives.
- Pass a jury each semester.
- Pass the double jury in the 4th semester to be accepted into upper level lessons
- Perform the appropriate recital to complete the degree.
- Upon graduating, be able to successfully audition for a graduate program.

**Program Materials**

1. Properly functioning guitar
2. Electric tuner
3. Flash drive
4. Method books based on individual needs
5. Notes should be taken during lessons
MUSA 1195: Lower Level Applied Guitar
4 semesters

**Semester 1**

**Theory:** Major Scales Modes: Triads, Seventh Chords, Arpeggios, Diatonic Progressions.

**Technique:** Major Scale Modes, Arpeggios, Alternate Picking

**Rhythm:** Jazz (playing 4’s), Funk

**Lead:** Using Major Scales

**Sight-reading:** Melodic Rhythms Book, Classical Etude

**Transcription and Analysis:** From selected repertoire

**Solo:** Delta Blues, Basic Chord Melody

**Repertoire:** 5 Jazz Selections, 2 other. (play chords, melody, and improvise in duo setting with instructor)

**Essay:** A one to two page essay will be assigned on a topic related to materials covered during the semester.

**Semester 2**

**Theory:** Major Scales Modes: Triads, Seventh Chords, Arpeggios, Diatonic Progressions, Intro to Triplet Rhythms

**Technique:** Major Scale Modes, Arpeggios, Alternate Picking

**Rhythm:** Syncopated Jazz Patterns, Triplet Rhythms

**Lead:** Using Major Scales, Melodic Development

**Sight-reading:** Melodic Rhythms Book, Classical Etude

**Transcription and Analysis:** From selected repertoire

**Solo:** Delta Blues (compose/arrange and perform), Jazz Chord Melody with Intro and Coda

**Repertoire:** 5 Jazz Selections, 2 from other styles. (play chords, melody, and improvise in duo setting with instructor)

**Essay:** A one-page synopsis of progress made, and goals for future semesters will be due the last week of the semester.

**Semester 3**
Theory: Pentatonic Scales Derived From Major Modes, Diminished Scale, Diatonic Chord Progressions with Basic Substitutions.

Technique: Major Scale Patterns, Arpeggios, Pentatonic Scales, Introduction to Economy and Sweep Picking

Rhythm: Introduction to Bossa Nova Patterns

Lead: Using Major Scale Patterns, Pentatonics, Intro to Jazz Phrasing, Rhythmic Development

Sight-reading: Melodic Rhythms Book, Classical Etude

Transcription and Analysis: From selected repertoire

Solo: Basic Chord Melody (1 pop or rock song, and 1 jazz)

Repertoire: 5 Jazz Selections, 2 other. (play chords, melody, and improvise in duo setting with instructor)

Essay: A one to two page essay will be assigned on a topic related to materials covered during the semester.

Semester 4
Theory: Introduction of Tritone Substitution, Introduction of Odd Meters

Technique: Major Scale Patterns, Arpeggios, Pentatonic Scales, Economy and Sweep Picking

Rhythm: Jazz Comping, Bossa Nova

Lead: Using Major Scale Patterns, Pentatonic Patterns, Jazz Phrasing, Rhythmic Development, and Sequencing.

Sight-reading: Melodic Rhythms Book, Classical Etude

Transcription and Analysis: From selected repertoire

Solo: Jazz Blues Improvised Solo, Latin Chord Melody (bossa), Jazz Chord Melody with Intro and Coda

Repertoire: 5 Jazz Selections, 2 other. (play chords, melody, and improvise in duo setting with instructor)

Essay: A one to two page essay will be assigned on a topic related to materials covered during the semester.

MUSA 3295 Audition Requirements (double jury advancement into Upper Level)
The double jury will be based on material covered in semester four and the cumulative knowledge of material from all four semesters. Students whom are not ready to enter upper level applied lessons may have to take an additional semester on lower level, or will be advised to change majors.
MUSA 3295: Upper Level Applied Guitar
4 semesters

**Semester 5**
**Theory:** Melodic Minor Modes and Chords, HW Dim Scale, Altered Chord Extensions, Odd Meter Exercises

**Technique:** Melodic Minor Shapes and Arpeggios, Dominant Pentatonic Scales, Economy and Sweep Picking

**Rhythm:** Jazz Comping in Odd Meters, Bossa Nova and Samba Accompaniment

**Lead:** Using Melodic Minor Patterns, Dom Pentatonic Patterns, Rhythmic Superimposition, and Sequencing.

**Sight-reading:** Melodic Rhythms Book, Classical Etude

**Transcription and Analysis:** From selected repertoire

**Solo:** Country/Bluegrass Fingerpickin, 1-2 Jazz Chord Melodies with Intro, Coda, and Composed Solo Section

**Repertoire:** 10 Jazz Selections, 5 other. (play chords, melody, and improvise in duo setting with instructor)

**Essay:** A one to two page essay will be assigned on a topic related to materials covered during the semester.

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**Semester 6**
**Theory:** Melodic Minor Modes and Chords, Altered Chord Extensions, Odd Meter Exercises, Intro to Non-Functional Chord Progressions

**Technique:** Melodic Minor Shapes and Arpeggios, Dominant Pentatonic Scales

**Rhythm:** Jazz Accompaniment for Vocal or Instrumental Duo

**Lead:** Using Melodic Minor Patterns, Dom Pentatonic Patterns, Rhythmic Superimposition, and Sequencing.

**Sight-reading:** Melodic Rhythms Book, Classical Etude

**Transcription and Analysis:** From selected repertoire

**Solo:** 2 Jazz Chord Melodies with Intro, Coda, and Composed Solo Section, 1 Other Arrangement of Students Choice

**Repertoire:** 10 Jazz Selections, 5 other. (play chords, melody, and improvise in duo setting with
**Essay:** A one to two page essay will be assigned on a topic related to materials covered during the semester.

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**Semester 7**

**Theory:** Non-Functional Harmony

**Technique:** Two Octave Arpeggios

**Rhythm:** Review, Isolation of Weaknesses

**Lead:** Review, Isolation of Weaknesses

**Sight-reading:** Melodic Rhythms Book, Classical Etude

**Transcription and Analysis:** From selected repertoire

**Solo:** 2 Jazz Chord Melodies with Intro, Coda, and Composed Solo Section, Pop Song Chord Melody with Intro, Coda, and Solo Section.

**Repertoire:** 10 Jazz Selections, 5 other. (play chords, melody, and improvise in duo setting with instructor)

**Essay:** A two-page essay will be assigned in the 7th semester. This essay will be a description of progress that has been made as a UTEP guitar major and how the skills learns will help after graduation.

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**Semester 8**

**Senior Recital:** Preparation, Planning, Rehearsal, and Execution of Senior Recital. Recitals should demonstrate varying styles and instrumentations.

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**Attendance Policy:** Students are allowed 1 unexcused absence. Each additional absence will result in a half letter grade deduction. Make up lessons are not required by the instructor. Weekly lesson times are subject to change.

**Juries:** The juries at the end of each semester will act as a final exam. Grading of the jury performances will fall into two categories; articulation and musicality.

**Grading:** Students final grade will be based on progress made during the semester, comprehension of materials, completion of week-to-week assignments, and juries.
**Overall Semester Grade Percentages:**

*Weekly assignments: 25%*

*Comprehension and application of materials: 25%*

*Overall progress during semester: 25%*

*Jury: 25%*

**Accommodations:** If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).