Individual Instruction - MUSA 1195  
(Lower Level Applied Guitar)

Instructor: Shaun Mahoney  
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- Students meet with instructor once per week for 50 minutes. Students are expected to select a 50-minute time slot via my office door calendar one week prior to the first week of the semester.

Guitar students take four semesters of lower level applied lessons before moving to upper level via the double jury. This syllabus outlines lower level guitar course study by semester. The applicable degrees are: commercial music and theory and composition.

Course Description

This course in designed to instill 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 (spontaneous composition of solos based on chord changes), Solo Playing (arrangement and performance), and Playing in Ensembles.

Course 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.
**Course Goals**

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.

**Course Materials** (These materials are required)

1. Properly functioning guitar
2. Electric tuner
3. Metronome
4. Flash drive
5. Method books based on individual needs
6. Weekly assignment log book
7. Smart phone apps: ireal pro & drum genius
8. Melodic Rhythms book

**Concert Attendance Requirement**

Students are required to attend two commercial music concerts each semester other than ones they are performing in. Students are also required to attend all guitar faculty recitals/concerts.
MUSA 1195: Lower Level Applied Guitar
(4 semesters)

**Semester 1**

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

**Technique:** Major Scale Modes, One Octave 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, Notated Chord Melody

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

**Semester 2**

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

**Technique:** Continuation of semester one with adjustments for each students needs.

**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), Notated Chord Melody

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

**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: Notated Chord Melody

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

**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: Notated Chord Melody

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

Essay (as indicated by professor): A one to two-page essay describing future goals as a guitar major, current progress made, etc.

**MUSA 3295 Barrier Exam Requirements (Double jury to pass into Upper Level)**

- The double jury requirements will be based on material covered in semester four of MUSA1195 and the cumulative knowledge of material from all four lower level semesters.
- Students will be asked to perform two solo guitar pieces and two duo guitar pieces with their instructor.
- Students will be asked to demonstrate theoretical and technical exercises on the guitar at the instructor’s discretion.
- Students whom do not pass the double jury will have to take an additional semester of lower level. If the double jury is not passed on the second try, students will be advised to change majors.
Repertoire List

- Repertoire will be chosen based on the student’s needs each semester. Supplemental material can be added with consideration of the student’s input and/or individual interests.

**Song List** Songs are organized by year of study, difficulty level, and form/style.

**Easy = 1st Year**
**Easy-Medium = 2nd Year**
**Medium-Difficult = 3rd Year**
**Difficult = 4th Year**

**Blues**
Freddie Freeloader-easy
Straight No Chaser-easy
Now’s The Time-easy
Billie’s Bounce-medium
All Blues-easy
Sandu-medium
Chi Chi-difficult
Byrd like-difficult
Godden’s Corner-easy
Trane’s Slow Blues-easy
Some Other Blues-medium
Bessie’s Blues-easy
Blue Trane-easy
Tenor Madness-difficult
Back at The Chicken Shack-medium
Blues for Alice-difficult

**Latin**
The Girl from Ipanema-difficult
Triste-difficult
Recordeme-medium
Desafinado-difficult
Agua de beber-difficult
Blue Bossa-easy
If You Never Come to Me-medium
Corcovado-difficult
Wave-difficult
How Insensitive-difficult
Invitation-difficult

**Groove**
Canteloupe Island-easy
Chameleon-easy
Wayne’s Thing-easy
The Chicken-medium

Watermelon Man-easy
Isn’t She Lovely-medium
Superstition-medium

Blind Man, Blind Man-medium
Some Skunk Funk-easy
Song for My Father-difficult
Red Clay-medium

Someday My Prince Will Come-medium
Bluesette-difficult
West Coast Blues-difficult
Full House-difficult
Up Jumped Spring-difficult

**AABA Standards**
All The Things-medium
Satin Doll-easy
Star Eyes-medium
Have You met Miss Jones?-difficult
I Mean You-difficult
Bye Bye Blackbird-medium
Night and Day-medium
Blue Skies-medium
I Hear a Rhapsody-difficult
There is no Greater Love-easy
Softly as in a Morning Sunrise-medium
Take The A Trane-medium
There Will Never Be Another You-medium
What Is This Thing Called Love?-medium
Cherokee-difficult
Nicas Dream-difficult
Autumn Leaves-easy
I Remember You-medium
I Love You-medium
Will You Still Be Mine-medium
Alone Together-medium
Night in Tunisia-medium
All or Nothing at All-medium
Joy Spring-difficult
In Walked Bud-medium
1st/2nd Ending Standards
On Green Dolphin Street-medium
Just Friends-difficult
You Stepped Out of a Dream-difficult
Yesterdays-medium
Ladybird-easy
The Days of Wine and Roses-difficult
This I Dig-difficult
Sweet Georgia Brown-medium
But Not for Me-medium
Summertime-easy
If I Should Lose You-medium
Four-medium
Its You or No one-medium
Out of No Where-difficult
Like Someone in Love-difficult
It Could Happen to You-difficult
I Thought About You-difficult
You’re My Everything-difficult
If I were A Bell-difficult
Fly Me Too the Moon-medium
The Shadow of You’re Smile-difficult
Doxxy-easy
How high the moon-medium

Ballads
Autumn In New York-medium
Body and Soul-difficult
Misty-difficult
Soul Eyes-difficult
Lover man-medium
You’ve Changed-medium
Prelude to A Kiss-difficult

My One and Only Love-difficult
In A Sentimental Mood-difficult
Round Midnight-difficult
Moonlight in Vermont-medium
What’s New-medium
You Go to My Head-medium
Naima-easy
Ask Me Now-difficult
Sophisticated Lady-difficult
The Very Thought of You-medium
The Nearness of You-medium
Here’s That Rainy Day-medium
I Should Care-medium
Angel Eyes-easy
Polka dots and Moonbeams-medium
It Might as Well Be Spring-difficult
You Don’t Know What Love Is-easy
Georgia-medium
Stardust-medium
Isfahan-difficult
Everything Happens to Me-medium

Rhythm Changes
Oleo-difficult
Thriving from A Riff-difficult
Anthropology-difficult
Moose the Moose-difficult
The Theme-medium
Rhythm n Ing-easy
No Moe-medium
Lester Leaps In-easy
I Got Rhythm-easy
Salt Peanuts-easy
Dexterity-difficult

Other Repertoire Sources
- *Melodic Rhythms for Guitar* by William Leavitt
- *101 Graded Classical Guitar Studies* Selected by Frederick Noad
- Selected Solo Jazz Guitar Arrangements by Shaun Mahoney
**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. Jury sheets are available to students after the jury.

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

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**Overall Semester Grade Percentage Spread:**
- Completion of weekly assignments: 25%
- Comprehension and application of materials: 25%
- Overall progress during semester: 25%
- Jury: 15%
- Concert Attendance: 10%

**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.