

# Individual Instruction - MUSA 3295

## (Upper 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 upper level applied lessons after passing a double jury. Upper level lessons culminate in a senior recital. This syllabus outlines upper level guitar course study by semester. The applicable degrees are: commercial music and theory and composition.

### Course Description

This course is 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.
- 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, and events

**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:** 1-2 Jazz Chord Melodies with Intro, Coda, and Composed Solo Section, 1 other solo piece of students choice.

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

**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 instructor)

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> semester. This essay will be a description of progress that has been made as a UTEP guitar major and how the skills learned will help after graduation.

### **Semester 8**

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

## Repertoire List

-Repertoire will be chosen based on the student's needs each semester. Supplemental material can be added with consideration of the student work in other courses, and/or individual interests.

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

**Easy = 1<sup>st</sup> Year**

**Easy-Medium = 2<sup>nd</sup> Year**

**Medium-Difficult = 3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

**Difficult = 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

Cantaloupe Island-easy

Chameleon-easy

Wayne's Thing-easy

Sunny-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

### **3/4**

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

Alone Together-medium  
Night in Tunisia-medium  
All or Nothing at All-medium  
Joy Spring-difficult  
In Walked Bud-medium  
Stella-difficult

### **1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> 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-medium  
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  
Doxy-easy  
How high the moon-medium

### **Ballads**

Autumn In New York-medium  
Body and Soul-difficult  
Misty-difficult  
Soul Eyes-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

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

**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.

**Studio Class:** Students are required to attend and perform at monthly studio classes where they will be critiqued in front of their peers in a master-class setting.

**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 Percentage Spread :**

*Completion of weekly assignments: 25%*

*Comprehension and application of materials: 25%*

*Overall progress during semester: 25%*

*Jury: 15%*

*Studio Class: 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](mailto: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).