

BEGINNER FOLK GUITAR I

Fall 2022

SYLLABUS

Course Title: Beginner Folk Guitar I

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Course Prerequisites: None

Course Co-requisites: None

Materials Required: Acoustic guitar, strap, music stand, electronic tuner, flat and thumb picks, capo for later in the semester, extra set of strings good but not required

Text Book(s) Required and their cost: (1) Instructors will provide extensive class materials with music information, chord songs and note playing. This will be sent electronically in a PDF format. Students will print these materials and make their own notebook; (2) student should bring Mel Bay's Modern Guitar Method – Grade 1 – available for about \$10

Goals:

1. To have students experience the physical and mental, emotional and spiritual benefits of music.
2. To realize and encourage the innate ability to respond and participate in the creating of music.
3. To explore and develop playing by ear, reading music and tablature, and performing.
4. To break down the learning process to simple do-able steps so that the learning experience is pleasurable and low stress.

Week One:

1. Getting to know you. What is the musical background of each student? Why have they decided to learn or relearn the guitar at this particular time? What is the background and experience of the instructor?
 2. Parts of a guitar
 3. How to hold a guitar
 4. How to position fingers on the strings
 5. How to get a clear sound by fingering close to the fret but not on it
 6. Simple (one fingered) C and G7 chords used to accompany songs.
 7. Practice moving from one chord to another.
 8. Show how to hold a flat pick
 9. Right hand down-strum technique with flat pick or thumb.
 10. Play song accompaniments

Week Two:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Review week one
- c. Demonstrate tuning the guitar with an electronic tuner
- d. Talk about building calluses and relieving hand stress
- e. Discuss practicing strategies and how long to practice. Recommended practice time is 15-30 minutes per day for 5 days. Designate the same time to practice every practice session (i.e. after lunch, before bed, etc.)
- f. Teach small (one fingered) G chord and full D7 chord

- g. Play song accompaniments with G and D7 and G, C, and D7.

Week Three:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Review week two
- c. Demonstrate tuning the guitar with an electronic tuner, from another instrument, tuning from the sixth string.
- d. Teach full C and full G7 chord
- e. Play song accompaniments with full C and G7 chords

Week Four:

- a. Have students tune their guitars. Helpers check tuning.
- b. Warm ups
- c. Review week three
- d. Teach the full G chord. Explain how the seventh tone causes dissonance which makes you want to resolve it to the I or home chord.
- e. Play song accompaniments using simple or full G, C, and D7 chords

Week Five:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Review week four
- c. Learning the musical alphabet circle and tonic (I chord), subdominant (IV chord), and dominant (V or V7 chord)
- d. Teach right hand down/up strum
- e. Teach the F chord
- f. Teach keys of C and G
- g. Play song accompaniments

Week Six:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Review week five
- c. Teach the D and D7 chords
- d. Learn new songs to play
- e. Play song accompaniments

Week Seven:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Review week 6
- c. Teach the A and A7 chords
- d. Teach key of D
- e. Play song accompaniments

Week Eight:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Teach Em chord
- c. Teach a four chord song
- d. Have students buddy up and make chords on the guitar for their partners to guess what chord it is. Students can use C, G7, G, D, D7 or A7
- e. Play song accompaniments

Week Nine:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Teach Am chord and new songs
- c. Teach the $\frac{3}{4}$ time strum
- d. Teach Dsus 2 & 4
- e. Play song accompaniments

Week Ten:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Teach the E and E7 chords
- c. Teach key of A
- d. Explain how the concept of the I, IV and V7 chords can be used to transpose chords from one key to another
- e. Using the above concept, transpose songs from one key to another.
- f. Play song accompaniments

Week Eleven:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Teach using a capo to make chords more singable and to alter keys
- c. Mystery Chords: Hand out "quiz" with chord diagrams and ask students to identify each.
- d. Teach major chords in key of A (A, D, E7)
- e. Play song accompaniments

Week Twelve:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Have an F chord competition. Whoever plays the best F gets a prize.
- c. Teach transposing keys in a song
- d. Play song accompaniments

Week Thirteen:

- a. Warm ups
- b. Review key transposition and capos
- c. Whet students' appetite for next term.
- d. Play song accompaniments

Note: *Please remember to check tuning of guitars before each session. Ask for tuning assistance from the class helpers.*