

# Beginner Folk Guitar II Course Content Form – 2023 Spring

Course Title **Beginner Folk Guitar II**

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Course Prerequisites: **Folk Guitar, Beginning I or equivalent. Ability to play songs in keys of A, C, D and G.**

Course Co-requisites: **None**

Materials Required: **Student must bring a playable acoustic guitar with strap, electronic tuner, music stand, flat pick, thumb pick and capo.**

Textbook(s) required **Notebook with music and other materials provided by instructor, AND student must purchase on own Mel Bay's Modern Guitar Method, Grade 1; ISBN 978-078-669-327-6.**

## FOLK GUITAR, BEGINNING II – SYLLABUS Spring 2024

### 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.

### Pre-requisites:

1. To be familiar with the full version of the major chords C, F, G, G7, D, D7, A, A7, Em, E, E7.
2. The ability to play and sing songs in the keys of G, C, D & A.
3. Ability to hold and play with a flat pick.
4. Familiar with the right-hand strum of Down and Down/Up.
5. Ability to tune the guitar either by ear or with an electronic tuner.
6. Understanding of the concept of I (tonic), IV (subdominant) and V7 (dominant) chords in a key and their relationship to transposition.

If students have any questions on whether they have acquired the skills to go on to Semester Two, please see one of the lead instructors.

### Skills to be acquired in Semester Two:

1. Ability to play chords B7, C7, am & dm and more
2. Ability to play in the key of E
3. Ability to play bass and alternate bass in finger style as well as with a flat or thumb pick.
4. Ability to use new strumming styles
5. Understanding where minor chords fit into a scale (i.e., I, ii, iii, IV, V, vi, vii diminished)
6. Ability to learn, and learn to play, notes in the first position on strings 1,2,3.
7. Ability to play a few simple note songs.
8. Understanding how notes make up the chords.
9. Ability to play duets in a melody/chord format or using a capo to play in two different keys.
10. Beginning ear training to hear chord changes

## Materials Needed:

1. Guitar and carrying case
2. Guitar strap
3. Clip on guitar tuner
4. Flat pick and thumb pick
5. Capo (either elastic, clamp type or screw on)
6. Music stand
7. Class Guitar Book (available from instructor for \$6)

## Week One:

- a. Getting to know you. What is the musical background of each student? What do they hope to get out of this class? What is the background, experience, and particular expertise of the instructor?
- b. Chord Warm ups/ Practice Patterns
- c. Review the concept of I, IV, V7 chords and Review major chords in key of C (C, F, G7), D (D, G, A7), G (G, C, D7), A (A, D, E7)
- d. Play songs in keys: "A", "G", "C" & "D"
- e. Review Music Structure 4/4 and 3/4 and 6/8 time
- f. Review Strumming Patterns from semester I (see **Mary's handouts**)
- g. Give overview of what students will be learning this semester.
- h. Reminder about capos (See *Purple p. 14-15*). Answer student questions
- i. End session by playing some fun songs demonstrating today's lesson

## Week Two :

- a. Warm ups including song from last week
- b. Teach B7 chord and how it fits into the key of E
- c. Reinforce the concept of I, IV, V7 and how this can be used to transpose from one key to another (See *Purple p. 12*)
- d. Play song accompaniments in the key of E
- e. Using flat pick, introduce concept of right hand strum in 4/4 of Bass, down, Alternate bass, down, using flat pick or thumb. (See *purple p. 16-17 for basses and alternate basses for chords C, D, D7, E, E7, G, G7 and A, A7*)
- f. End session by playing a songs demonstrating today's lesson in E

## Week Three :

- a. Warm ups & key of E song
- b. Teach Am & Dm,
- c. Play 8,6,4,2,1 with Am, Dm, E
- d. Play songs using these chords
  - a. Oh Mary page 82
  - b. Love potion page 84
- e. Explore other AB strums in 4/4
- f. End session by playing some fun songs in E. G, A, C, D..

## Week Four :

- a. Warm ups & Springsteen's Oh, Mary (in Am)
- b. **Playing Bass and Alternating bass in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time**
  - a. Alternating Bass the same as for 4/4, but each B & AB is followed by 2 strums
  - b. Practice this for G,C,D,E,A,F
  - c. Play a song
- c. Review how to find a song that you might want to play and lead
  - a. Google or YouTube the name of the singer and/or the songs.
  - b. Need to find the words and chords? Google the name of the tune (or a key phrase) then lyrics + chords, e.g, "Jambalaya lyrics + chords"
  - c. **Homework for this week** is to find a song and work it up into playable form for yourself.
- d. End session by playing some fun songs demonstrating today's lesson

## Week Five :

- a. Warm ups & review song using bass/alternating bass strumming in 3/4 time
- b. Stretching your guitar muscles at **Jams**,
- c. Oh, Lord, It's a Metronome!
  - a. Show a metronome and demonstrate light vs. click
  - b. Play a song with a metronome in class
- d. Alternative Strumming
  - a. Plucking
    - a. Right hand thumb plays bass strings 6, 5, and 4; right hand finger one on string three, finger two on string two and finger three on string one. Curl fingers under treble strings (string one, two and three) and all three fingers pluck the strings together. Thumb plays bass (one note) and fingers pluck treble strings. For 3/4 time it is bass, pluck, pluck/alternate bass, pluck, pluck. We call the plucking—treble, treble; so the correct terminology is bass, treble, treble, etc
- e. End session by playing some fun songs demonstrating today's lesson

## Week Six :

- a. Warm ups & song in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time using Bass/Alt Bass
- b. Teach pattern songs with C, Am, F, G (*See page 110-113* )
- c. Introduce the pattern G, Em, Am, D7, Assign students to write songs for next week
- d. Play a song with C7 chord
- e. Alt. Bass with finger picking styles
- f. End session by playing some fun songs demonstrating today's lesson

## Week Seven :

- a. Warm ups & pattern song
- b. Right hand thumb plays bass strings 6, 5, and 4 as previously instructed (Travis picking);
  - B pick AB i m r (arpeggio)
  - 1 2 3 & 4 & --- right hand finger one on string three, finger two on string two and finger three on string one. Curl fingers under treble strings (string one, two and three) and all three fingers pluck the strings together.
  - For 3/4 time it is
    - B pluck AB pluck AB2 pluck
    - 1 & 2 & 3 &
- c. Students play songs that they wrote this week
- d. Teacher plays song accompaniments with two or three chords calling out the chord changes, students follow the vocal direction and/or **use their ear**. (*This gets the student's head out of the written music and into reliance on their ears*)
- e. End session by playing some fun songs demonstrating today's lesson

## Week Eight :

- a. Warm ups
- b. Students play songs that they wrote
- c. Practice reading chords from another guitarist's fretboard. Class can either be broken up in groups with one person making the chord and the rest of the group telling what it is, or teacher can form the chord and class can guess what chord is being formed. Prep for going out to play with others.
- d. Play **song in 6/8**
- e. Give the class a song sheet of a two-three chord song without the chords written in and ask students to individually use their ear to hear where the chord changes might be and mark them in.

## Week Nine :

- a. Warm ups
- b. Students play songs that they wrote
- c. Play a song in every key to figure out which is best for your voice
- d. Capo Review, duet playing
- e. Learn new songs

## Week Ten :

- a. Warm ups
- b. Bass runs – what they are and where they go in the song
  - a. Try some
- c. Play duets using capo. Half the class will play a song in C (no capo) and other half use the chords in the key of A (with capo on third fret). The song will come out in the same key. *I Hope You'll Dance*
- d. Students plays any remaining songs that they wrote
- e. Learn new songs

### **Week Eleven :**

- a. Warm ups
- b. Practice more bass runs
- c. Play songs in 4/4 & 3/4 with Travis picking, using strum, finger pick , Arpeggio, Pluck
- d. Learn new songs
- e. Distribute student evaluating forms

### **Week Twelve : TBD**

### **Week Thirteen :**

- a. Warm ups
- b. Ask class for feedback. What was easy? What is still giving them trouble? What can they do now in week thirteen that they couldn't do during week one? How are they going to keep themselves playing during the summer months?
- c. Review techniques requested by students via e-mail
- d. Each teacher picks a final song to play