

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Fall 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	MUSC/PART130		
Course Title	Workshop: Guitar		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	BLOW Michael	Year Available (Grade Level)	1
Subject Area	Interdisciplinary Arts: Music	Number of Credits	1
Class Style	Workshop	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	<p>This workshop focuses on the development of practical and theoretical knowledge of guitar performance.</p> <p>Participants will learn:            Basic knowledge and techniques: tuning, notes of the neck, using a pick            How to read chord charts and tab notation            Open chords, Barre chords            Essential pentatonic / blues soloing scales and techniques.            We also often learn a track together and perform this at the gala if the class want to.</p> <p>Please note this workshop is limited to a maximum of 10 participants, and each student must bring their own electric or steel-string acoustic guitar. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A GUITAR THERE WILL BE A SHOPPING TRIP TO LOCAL USED GUITAR STORES IN WEEK 1 OF THE WORKSHOP, so there is no need to buy a new guitar beforehand unless you wish to.</p> <p>Assessment is by a solo or group performance at the end of the workshop.</p>
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	<p>Class will remain largely the same but there is always some variation due to the different instruments and skill levels of the participants.</p> <p>We will chose and prepare a song for the gala again this year.</p> <p>More notice of the 'shopping trip' in week 1.</p>
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	<p>Prof Blow started playing guitar at 13 and is an intermediate-advanced player in rock / blues / funk / pop styles. He has played in many band and accompaniment situations.</p>
Learning Goals	<p>At the end of this course students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) tune a guitar, either by ear or using a tuner/app;</li> <li>(ii) play a number of chords (open and barre) and chord progressions on the guitar</li> <li>(iii) understand some guitar-related music theory</li> <li>(iv) be able to listen more critically to what they and others are playing</li> <li>(v) understand the basics of guitar improvisation using the pentatonic scale</li> <li>(vi) To become more reflective, curious, and open-minded</li> </ul>

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP3
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## iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning/Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation/Workshop, Fieldwork				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	Each week we will learn and practice a new element of guitar – for example some chords, progressions, or solo techniques. Students will also choose and work on a performance piece for the end of the workshop with tutorial supervision. We will also work together on a piece to play at the gala, often with other accompanying musicians.				
Use of ICT	Projector, sound system				
Contents of class preparation and review	The only way to improve at playing the guitar is regular practice – there are no short cuts. Students will be assessed on the ambition of their performance piece and their improvement over the course, so to get a good grade, daily practice is essential. Students should spend around 30 minutes per day working on course material and practicing their performance piece. From experience, students that don't will fail the practical assessment. You cannot 'cram' a new guitar piece just before the assessment – it doesn't work, as your body needs time to learn the new finger positions and movements. A good approach is to play material that you enjoy so that practice becomes playing for pleasure. Another good idea is to play regularly with other people. And don't give up – the body adapts, so what you cannot do today, you may be able to tomorrow.	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	During class: verbal Performance and presentation: Verbal and written				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Performance	50%	Musical performance
Research Presentation	50%	Powerpoint etc

Required Textbook(s)	No required textbook. Students will be provided with handouts.
Other Reading Materials/URL	Books: Resources in the iCLA library: Guitar Rigs, Guitar Effects Pedals, Guitar Amps (all by Hunter) Another excellent resource that covers history and playing technique is The Guitar Handbook by Ralf Denyer (Knopf, available on Amazon and through bookshops) Many useful instructional videos for all levels are available on YouTube.  For advanced students: Greene, Chord Chemistry, Alfred 1971 Douse, Scales and Modes for Guitar, IMP 1991 Goodrick, The Advancing Guitarist, Hal Leonard 1987

Plagiarism Policy	Plagiarism is the dishonest presentation of the work of others as if it were one's own. Duplicate submission is also treated as plagiarism. Depending on nature of plagiarism you may fail the assignment or the course. Repeated act of plagiarism will be reported to the University which may apply additional penalties. Direct copying from online sources or another student may result in a 0 grade for that assignment.
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	<p>1) Students must bring their own guitar. We will go on a shopping trip to local secondhand stores in week 1 for any students that need to buy a guitar. For this course I would recommend a cheap electric or steel-string acoustic guitar. Electric guitars are usually easier to play and recommended for soloing and blues, rock and funk. However you will also need a small amplifier for personal practice. Steel string acoustic guitars are often more difficult to play but are excellent for singer/songwriter styles. Both are cheaply available secondhand (from around 6000 yen) from the various Off House stores situated near iCLA. For exchange students, guitars can be sold to other students or back to the secondhand store at the end of their studies, or shipped/taken home after the semester.</p> <p>2) A Note on A.I. It is my observation that A.I. writes terrible papers. They are typically full of complicated words but do not contain much information, they often include chronic repetition of information from one paragraph to the next, and they do not include proper referencing. Papers on this course will be strictly graded according to academic standards. It is my strong recommendation that, if you use A.I., you use it for research only and any writing that you submit is hand-written by yourself. An insightful written piece containing your own thoughts and observations, even if the spelling or grammar is not perfect, will earn you a better grade than the superficial nonsense that A.I. tends to produce.</p> <p>3) Please note this syllabus is indicative only and may change due to external events or for pedagogical reasons</p>

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Introduction to guitar, basic technique, tuning
Class 2	Introduction to guitar, basic technique, tuning
Class 3	Warmups, Basic open chords, example songs
Class 4	Brief and choosing personal practice songs
Class 5	Extended open chords (7, sus etc), example songs
Class 6	Tutorial / Group practice / Personal practice
Class 7	Chord Theory
Class 8	Tutorial / Group practice / Personal practice
Class 9	Barre chords, example songs

Class 10	Tutorial / Group practice / Personal practice
Class 11	Power chords, damping, example songs
Class 12	Tutorial / Group practice / Personal practice
Class 13	Pentatonic scales, picking technique, example songs
Class 14	Tutorial / Group practice / Personal practice
Class 15	Expressive techniques: bends and slides, etc, example songs
Class 16	Tutorial / Group practice / Personal practice
Class 17	Tutorial / Group practice / Personal practice
Class 18	Tutorial / Group practice / Personal practice
Class 19	Tutorial / Group practice / Personal practice
Class 20	Performances