

## **Music 2105B - 650 - FW23 BEGINNER GUITAR COURSE – Winter 2024**

### **INSTRUCTORS**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Patrick Feely

**EMAIL:** pfeely@uwo.ca

**PHONE:** 519-756-2080

**OFFICE HOURS:** Online Zoom, Thursdays, 8-9pm

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Neda Samavati

**EMAIL:** nsamavati@uwo.ca

### **COURSE CONTENT**

This undergraduate course is open to non-music majors with no prior musical training or guitar experience. The aims of the course will be to develop students' classical guitar playing skills, including a practical knowledge of the physiological principles that inform all aspects of guitar playing; including the positioning and movement of the body, arms, wrist and fingers, in accordance with current best practices in guitar pedagogy. Students will play primarily in a solo guitar format utilizing repertoire from global music traditions including European art music, American blues and popular music genres. Students will learn to play through aural and visual modeling, standard and tablature notation. Learning to play expressively will be a central focus of the course. The course will culminate with a student-chosen final video performance submission and a brief multiple choice final examination.

### **COURSE OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course, you will be able to position your body, guitar, hand, fingers, as well as move the fingers, all in accordance with best pedagogical practices. You will be able to read basic standard music notation (including pitches and rhythms) and guitar tablature. You will be able to play simple pieces by ear by watching and listening to peer models. You will be able to perform pieces with two voice textures, arpeggios, and diads from the classical music genre, and short riffs, chord strumming, and power chords from the popular music genre. Above all you will learn to play expressively, performing with dynamic contrasts, flexible tempo and warm tone.

### **LECTURES**

This course is "asynchronous," which means that we won't meet as a group at a particular time. Instead, you'll determine your own schedule for working through course activities and materials so that you can meet the course deadlines. New materials (video lectures, course curriculum etc.) will be released each Tuesday at 6am beginning January 9. Office hours will be held Thursday evenings from 8-9 pm beginning January 11, on Zoom.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

**Students will be required to have a classical guitar, foot-rest, music stand and a YouTube account.** No courseware or books will be required for this course. Instructional materials will be provided weekly through the Owl course website. If you are in the London area, guitars can be rented for approximately

\$10-\$15 per month from Long and McQuade music store, 725 Fanshawe Park Rd W, London, ON.  
Phone:(519) 439-0101. Electric and folk (steel string) guitar will not be permitted.

### **WEEKLY VIDEO PERFORMANCE SUBMISSIONS 50%**

Each week you will submit a video recording of yourself performing an instructor chosen piece studied during the previous week. This piece, as well as other supplementary playing materials will form the basis of your practicing for the week. Your video will demonstrate your practical application of the repertoire being studied during the previous week.

**MAIN PIECE, 40%:** This video submission will highlight new musical/technical elements learned during the previous week.

**SUPPLEMENTAL PIECE, 10%:** This video submission will highlight supplemental materials learned during the previous week. These may include chords, scales, or short pieces learned by ear or by tablature.

**VIDEO SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES:** Please upload your weekly video submissions to YouTube, place the video on “unlisted mode”, then copy and submit the URL link through the provided portal. Video record yourself straight on—face-to face—and be sure that your entire guitar, hands, arms, and fingers are visible. If you do not video record yourself as described above, I cannot accurately assess you and you will lose marks as a result. Each musical performance must be one continuous recording. Edited performances will receive a grade of zero. Please use the best possible recording devices at your disposal.

### **WEEKLY FORUM POST 10%**

Each week you will participate in a forum post. A typical forum post may ask you to discuss an aspect of the weekly material that you find difficult, then offer a solution or strategy for overcoming a difficulty that a peer has identified. The goal of the forum is to provide a space for discussing difficulties that you may have with certain aspects of the weekly curriculum and for classmates to engage in peer-tutoring with those who are experiencing difficulties. Forums open on Tuesday at 6am and close on Thursday at 6 am. The relatively short time to complete these forums is intentional; I want you to engage with new musical materials early in the week.

### **WEEKLY ONLINE QUIZ 20%**

Each week there will be a 20-minute on-line quiz consisting of 10 multiple choice questions. Quizzes will test your knowledge of the repertoire, topics being studied, and aspects of guitar technique. Quizzes open Saturday at 6am and close on Sunday at 6am.

### **FINAL VIDEO ASSESSMENT 10%**

You will submit a solo guitar video performance of yourself due by the last day of classes, Monday April 8, @11:59 pm. You may choose from a variety of pieces selected by the instructor, or a self-chosen piece, provided you have approval from the instructor. In the past, some students have chosen to perform popular music selections and even to sing and play. If you are choosing your own piece, please send a YouTube video and score for approval.

## **FINAL ONLINE EXAM 10% (TBD)**

There will be a brief final examination, which includes 20 multiple-choice questions.

## **WEEKLY TIMELINE**

- New musical materials will be released Tuesdays at 6am in the Course Content section of OWL.
- Forum posts will open each Tuesday at 6am and will close each Thursday at 6am.
- Office hours will be 8-9 pm Thursday evenings on Zoom.
- On-line Quizzes will open each Saturday at 6 am and close on Sunday at 6am.
- Video submission will be accepted any time from Tuesday 6am, until the following Tuesday at 5:59 am.

## **EVALUATION**

### **Methods of Evaluation & Grade Breakdown:**

Weekly Main Piece: 10 weeks x 4% = 40%

Weekly Supplemental Piece: 10 weeks x 1% = 10%

Weekly Multiple-Choice Quiz: 10 weeks X 2% = 20%

Weekly Forum Post: 10 weeks x 1% = 10%

Final Video Submission 10%

Final Multiple Choice Quiz: 20 questions = 10%

## **GOALS FOR THE CLASS**

### **EXPRESSIVE PLAYING**

Learning to play a musical instrument encompasses various facets, such as mastering the correct instrument positioning, refining body movements, understanding musical notation, and adopting effective practice techniques. While these elements hold significant importance, the primary emphasis of this course will be on the art of expressive music-making. Expressive musical elements involve dynamic shaping (playing either loudly or softly), maintaining a flexible tempo (adjusting speed as needed), and achieving a balance between different musical voices (playing some parts loudly while keeping others soft). These expressive facets constitute the enjoyable and thrilling aspects of learning to play an instrument. They are the reasons we find pleasure in listening to music, develop an interest in playing a musical instrument, and appreciate the performances of our favorite artists.

### **PRACTICING**

In contrast to subjects that heavily rely on declarative knowledge (knowing that), playing music places a significant emphasis on procedural knowledge (knowing how). As a result, learning the guitar shares more similarities with sports than mathematics. Consequently, it is advisable to center your practice sessions on revisiting the fundamentals, including the proper positioning of the instrument and body, finger movements, and the production of aesthetically pleasing sounds.

During your practice, it's essential to pinpoint areas in your musical proficiency that require refinement. Establishing realistic goals for these areas, devising strategies to overcome challenges, practicing using these strategies, and subsequently evaluating whether those goals have been achieved should be the focus. Making mistakes while learning to play an instrument is not only expected but also beneficial. Mistakes serve as opportunities for growth, enabling you to identify areas for improvement and instigate positive changes in your performance.

## MODELLING

People learn by watching and imitating others. Bandura (1986) identified four main ways our brains process this learning. First, we pay attention to important parts of the model's behavior. Then, we store this information in our memory as pictures or words. This helps us create general rules for how to do things, guiding us in the future. Practice is crucial, helping us solidify these new skills by repeating them mentally and physically, comparing them to our internal standards. Finally, how motivated we are to learn is important. Our beliefs about ourselves and our abilities significantly affect how well we learn (Bandura, 1997).

In this class, a substantial portion of learning will involve modeling. Starting from week two, a video featuring a peer model will be provided. It's highly recommended that you watch, listen, and imitate the actions of the peer model while working on your weekly submission.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

i) **Course Prerequisites:** None. **Course Antirequisite(s):** Music 3862A/B if taken in 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 or 2021-22. **Extra Information:** May not be counted for credit toward a program/module offered by the Don Wright Faculty of Music.

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work ( $\geq 10\%$ ):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf)

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(ze)s will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted, then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

v) **Academic Offences: Submission** of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

vi) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

viii) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays and observances and links to resources for more information. <https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>

ix) **Computer-marked Multiple-choice Tests or Exams:** These may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

x) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca) or call 519 661-3568.

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR WINTER 2024**

- Winter Term: Monday January. 8 - Monday April 8
- January 16th Last day to add or drop a second-term half (0.5) course or a second-term full (1.0) course. Courses dropped by this date will not appear on a transcript. Courses dropped after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty)
- February 17th - 25th, Spring Reading Week
- February 19, Family Day
- March 7th, Last day to withdraw from a second-term half (0.5) course, or a second-term full (1.0) course resulting in a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty). Course withdrawals after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'F'
- March 29th, Good Friday
- March 31st, Easter Sunday
- April 8th, Fall/Winter term classes end
- April 9th - 10th, Study Days