

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

**1. COURSE ID:** MUS. 371    **TITLE:** Guitar I

**Units:** 2.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 24.0-27.0 Lecture hours; 24.0-27.0 Lab hours; and 48.0-54.0 Homework hours

**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only

**Recommended Preparation:**  
MUS. 100 or equivalent

**2. COURSE DESIGNATION:**

**Degree Credit**

**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC

**3. COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

**Catalog Description:**

Techniques of guitar performance and reading music to enable students to play accompaniments to compositions written for the guitar. Students must supply their own instruments. Individual practice outside of class hours is required.

**4. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Demonstrate ability to read table Clef (including polyphonic scores). Demonstrate knowledge of the first four frets of the fingerboard.
2. Demonstrate ability to read a single line of music while playing in an ensemble. Successful class participation in sightreading exercises.
3. Successful performance of the three required beginner pieces
4. Demonstrate ability to transcribe single melody and chords from a popular song.

**5. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate ability to read table Clef (including polyphonic scores). Demonstrate knowledge of the first four frets of the fingerboard.
2. Demonstrate ability to read a single line of music while playing in an ensemble. Successful class participation in sightreading exercises.
3. Successful performance of the three required beginner pieces
4. Demonstrate ability to transcribe single melody and chords from a popular song.

**6. COURSE CONTENT:**

**Lecture Content:**

**Lecture Content:**

1. Development of concepts and skills pertaining to music.
  - A. Note reading, rhythm, meter, tempo, dynamics, tone, chords, fingerpicking and strums using the fingers and flat-pick.
  - B. Musical alphabet: reading in the G or treble clef in first position
  - C. Major, minor, diminished, dominant, and augmented chords (up to 7th's) in first position: A, Am, A7, Am7, Bm, B7, C, C7, D, Dm, D7, Dm7, E, E7, Em, Em7, F, G, and G7
  - D. Harmonic progressions, contrapuntal textures, and phrase structures.
  - E. Introduction to basic guitar terminology and tuning.
  - F. Introduction to traditional note reading and reading in the first position.
  - G. Chords in the major keys of D, G, C, E and A (I, IV and V) along with the VI and II chords of each key. Minor keys of A minor and E minor.
  - H. Ear training on I, IV, V, II and IV in major keys.
    - I. Major scale patterns, structure, major, minor and dominant 7th chord theory and identification
2. Development of performance skills.
  - A. Develop mobility of hands and fingers.
  - B. Establish correct practice habits.
  - C. Develop tone quality, finger dexterity, phrasing and sign reading ability.
3. Technique

- A. Correct right and left hand position.
  - B. Thumb-Bass patterns. The ‘sweep’, ‘brush’, ‘scratch’ and pluck techniques. Songs in the Key of D
  - C. Right Hand Variations; Arpeggios
  - D. Blues backup in the keys of A and E, Blues scales in the key of A and E
4. Literature
- A. American music styles applied to the guitar.
  - B. Main performers of American music styles on the guitar
5. Music Theory
- A. Method to figure out notes on the guitar by using the chromatic scale.
  - B. Transposing chords.
  - C. Major scale patterns, structure, major, minor and dominant 7th chord theory and identification

**Lab Content:**

Students practice guitar techniques and skills from lecture with peers and instructor.

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Lab
- C. Activity
- D. Critique
- E. Discussion
- F. Observation and Demonstration

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

Students write short concert reports on approved concerts involving classical vocal music.

**Reading Assignments:**

Weekly readings from the required textbooks.

**Other Outside Assignments:**

Individual practice.

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Performance
- C. Exams/Tests
- D. Final Class Performance
- E. Final Performance

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Noad, Frederick. *Solo Guitar Playing, Book 1*, 4th ed. Music Sales America, 2009

**Origination Date:** November 2016  
**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** February 2017  
**Effective Term:** Fall 2017  
**Course Originator:** Michael Galisatus