



## Course Requirements for Applied Guitar

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Location: Burns Chapel  
Instructor: Dwight Ham  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Contact: [dwight.ham@msutexas.edu](mailto:dwight.ham@msutexas.edu)

### Required Materials:

- Students may be asked to purchase books or materials at the instructor's discretion.
- Footstool or alternative guitar support
- *Pumping Nylon* by Scott Tennant
- *The Shearer Method: Classical Guitar Foundations Volumes 1 and 2* by Aaron Shearer, Alan Hirsh and Thomas Kikta
- *Reading Studies Volumes 1 and 2* by William Leavitt

### Course Description:

The primary goal of this course is to provide guitar students with individual instruction that addresses the needs of the modern guitarist. Frequent weekly topics will include: best common practices in regard to technique, music literacy, musical expression and stylistic versatility.

### Course Objectives:

- Demonstrate progress in regard to technique, posture, and hand position
- Demonstrate progress in musical literacy and sight reading
- Familiarization with the essential repertoire of the instrument
- Strengthening of sensibilities in regard to musical interpretation and expression
- Discuss practical career-related topics

### Grading Scale

- 100-90= A
- 89-80= B
- 79-70= C
- 69-60= D
- 59-0= F

### **Public Performance Requirement**

Every student pursuing a guitar-related degree is required to perform in public at least once a semester with the exception of students in their first semester of study at the college level. A student's grade will be dropped if this requirement is not met.

### **Weekly Preparation and Evaluation**

Students will receive weekly grades based on their preparation for each lesson. Students will be assigned duets, solos, and technical studies to practice each week. A guitar major should practice at least two hours a day unless an exception is made by the instructor. Many guitar majors spend as many as five hours a day practicing, although it is important to be cautious about injury from repetitive stress on the body. It is important to rest when in danger of injury.

- Students who consistently meet and exceed weekly performance expectations will receive an A
- Students who prepare well but do not perform to their full potential will receive a B.
- Students who do not prepare well enough to meet weekly performance expectations but show signs of progress will receive a C.
- Students who require extensive amounts of remediation and do not learn repertoire and technical skills but show signs of some progress will receive a D.
- Students who do not show signs of progress throughout the semester will receive an F.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all lessons for the semester. If a student misses a lesson, the lesson must be made up as soon as possible at the discretion of the student and instructor. All absences must be arranged at least twenty-four hours in advance except for instances that involve sudden illness. Ceasing to attend lessons before the completion of the semester will result in a failing grade. A student's grade will be dropped by one letter grade for every three unexcused absences that are not made up before the end of the semester.

Students who are asked to leave a lesson due to unprofessional behavior or lack of preparation will be assigned an unexcused absence for the lesson. There is no way to make up these lessons.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil protections for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. In accordance with state and federal law, MSU provides academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center (940.397.4140). The instructor is under no obligation to offer accommodations for students with disabilities who are not registered with DSS.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The student is responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance, or submitting for credit work done by another person. The instructor will apply the appropriate disciplinary action at his discretion, which may include receiving a zero on the assignment, being dropped from the course with an F, and/or recommending further sanctions. Familiarize yourself with the Student Honor Creed adopted by the MSU Student Government, which opens with the following statement: "As an MSU student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so."

### **Campus Carry**

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <https://msutexas.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.

### **Active Shooter**

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

### **Privacy**

Federal privacy law prohibits the instructor from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases, I will not discuss your academic progress or other matters with your parents. Please do not have them call me. Regardless of these important legal considerations, it is my general policy to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly.

### **Change of Schedule**

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

### **Moffett Library**

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

### **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed.

### **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

## Appendix A

### Standards/Competencies and Corresponding Activities

Competencies	Activities
<b>SBEC EC-12 Music Domain II Music Theory and Composition</b>	
<i>Competency 004: The teacher knows how to read, write, and interpret standard music notation.</i>	
A. Knows standard music terminology and identifies and interprets music symbols and terms from notation (e.g., dynamics, embellishments, articulation markings, tempo markings).	Students will utilize standard musical terminology as they progress through the fundamentals of playing piano.
B. Recognizes clefs, keys and meters; recognizes scales and pitch collections (e.g., modal, major, minor, pentatonic, whole-tone); identifies specific melodic and harmonic intervals; and identifies different rhythms and meters.	Students will learn major and minor scales, choral warm-ups, harmonize simple songs, transpose single-line melodies, and elementary to intermediate pieces of piano literature (depending on their incoming skills).

<p>C. Reads melodies in various modes and tonalities; interprets rhythmic and melodic phrases from notation; and reads music that incorporates complex rhythmic patterns in simple, compound and asymmetric meters.</p>	<p>Students will learn chord progressions, sight-read, transpose, and implement music theoretical skills and techniques into piano performance.</p>
<p><b>SBEC EC-12 Music Domain IV Music Classroom Performance</b></p>	
<p><i>Competency 009: The teacher demonstrates knowledge of methods and techniques for playing musical instruments.</i></p>	
<p>A. Understands performance skills and appropriate playing techniques (e.g., bowing, fingering, embouchure, rudiments) for a range of instruments (e.g., band, orchestral, classroom).</p>	<p>Student will learn keyboard technique including posture, hand position, and finger patterns.</p>