

Meca Course Syllabus

7072 Guitar for the Music Educator

Summer 2022

Matt Hudson

Office Phone: 312/225-6288

mhudson@vandercook.edu

Learn to master the functional concepts and materials necessary to accompany vocalists, create a guitar unit in general music, and lead a successful guitar class at any level. Topics include choosing instruments, playing chords in open and barred positions, reading various guitar notation styles, performing 12-bar blues, and strumming common pop progressions. This course is designed for educators who are new to the guitar as well as for those with guitar experience who are now seeking a fresh approach to teaching the instrument.

This syllabus is subject to change upon notification to the students.

Course Calendar

This course is divided into six units. Each unit will be two weeks long.

1. Guitar models, tuning, and playing your first notes
2. Open position chords and strumming.
3. Reading notes in the first position and playing two classic pieces.
4. Scales/Chord progressions/Improvisation
5. Barre Chords and more songs
6. Blues improvisation and accompaniment.

Instructional materials

The required text for the course is *Introduction to Guitar for Ensemble* by Joe Sweet. Students are required to have a guitar, picks, and a device to record themselves (any smartphone will do). Students with electric guitars should have an amplifier and ¼ inch instrument cables.

Course Learning Objectives

Students should learn and be able to demonstrate:

1. Basic and advanced strumming patterns over contemporary chord
2. progressions
3. Melodies performed on all six strings in first position.
4. How to derive scales from chord progressions and improvise.
5. Open position and Barre chords applied to contemporary music.
6. 12 bar blues accompaniment and improvisation.

MECA courses and ISBE Standards MECA courses, by their very nature and design, address the ISBE Music Content and Professional Teaching Standards throughout the course content. Music technology courses also incorporate the ISBE Technology Standards

VanderCook Candidate Outcomes Addressed

The outcomes that the College strives to develop in its teacher candidates were derived from the institution's Conceptual Framework and are expressed in its core dispositions. This course addresses the following Candidate Outcomes:

1. A high level of musicianship
2. Academic ability and diligence leading to a lifetime of learning
3. Skill in the process of teaching
4. Self-discipline and persistence
5. Interpersonal and intrapersonal skills
6. Good citizenship and personal integrity
7. Building pragmatic links with educational programs in diverse communities
8. Professionalism in action word, and appearance

Course Requirements and Exit Assessment

Each week students will typically be responsible for completing 2-3 required activities in a variety of formats.

Grades:

- Assignments: 50%
- Discussions: 25%
- Tests & Quizzes: 25%
- Workshops and Video Chat sessions are optional.

Grading Scale

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

Due Dates

Due dates for discussions are FIRM. If they are not completed on time, they will not receive credit. I am however a bit more flexible with Assignments:

- Any assignment submitted one week late will be automatically docked one letter grade. (For example, from an A down to a B.)
- Any assignment submitted two weeks late will be automatically docked two letter grades. (For example, from a B down to a D.)

- Any assignment submitted more than three weeks late will not receive credit. (There are no exceptions to this rule. If you are experiencing extenuating circumstances, please send me a direct message and we can discuss options at that time.)

- No assignments will be accepted after the course has ended on July 31st, 2022. I will spend the following morning finalizing your grades and submitting them to VanderCook. Any of the above rules regarding late assignments no longer apply after July 31st, 2022. That is a firm deadline for all course work.