

Graduate Course Number: 7673

Course Title: Fretwire: A Comprehensive Method for Teaching Class Guitar

Course Structure: Asynchronous

For a 12-week, 3-credit online course, students will spend, on average, 11.25 clock hours per week of combined chat sessions and independent work/practice.

For an 8-week, 3-credit online course, students will spend, on average, 16.6 hours per week of combined chat sessions and independent work/practice.

Asynchronous Courses: Asynchronous courses are designed for music educators whose time zones or teaching schedules do not allow them to attend classes synchronously. Through the use of pre-recorded lectures, independent research and writing projects, online discussion forums, watching online videos, and taking quizzes, the workload expectations are equivalent to the rigor that would normally be offered in an on-site, 15-week semester class.

Days/Times of Class Meetings: asynchronous

Number of Credits for the course: 3

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Office hours available by request. Please email.

“This Syllabus is a general outline of the course and is subject to change upon notification to the students during a regular class session.”

Student Engagement Statement: Each hour of credit implies a 60-minute class period plus 2 hours of outside the class preparation or its equivalent. Please expect to practice guitar daily. Do not fall behind. Although some of the barre chord exercises are just meant to expose educators to this topic, all other assignments are designed to be performed correctly with good tone, accurate rhythms, and precise pitch. That said, if you are struggling with an exercise, as a beginner, always focus on good tone production even if it means you have to compromise consistent metronomic pulse and precise rhythm.

Course Description: This course is for class guitar teachers who are looking for an innovative curricular tool to teach their students the fundamentals of guitar performance. Fretwire is a powerful learning management system specifically for guitar offered through VanderCook College of Music. Fretwire can administer a full year's guitar class instruction, organize assessments, and much more. If you teach band, orchestra, choir, or general music but need some help with your guitar courses, this course and program are for you.

MECA students who enroll in "FretWire for Beginning Guitar" will go through a portion of the Fretwire curriculum just as their students would. They will learn how to play open position chords, read melodies in 1st position, improvise using a blues **chord progression**, and perform a 12 bar blues with a partner or pre-recorded part. Because FretWire comes with lesson plans, 300+ instructional

videos, and weekly assessments, the teacher will then be able to teach their guitar classes knowing they have all the necessary resources to succeed.

<u>Student Learning Outcomes</u>	<u>Outcomes Assessments</u>
<p>Students will be able to play melodies using the first four strings in open position.</p> <p>Students will be able to differentiate and assess the merits of several right hand techniques.</p> <p>Students will analyze strumming patterns for various styles and learn to perform them with precise rhythm and pulse.</p> <p>Through a performance of 12 bar blues accompaniment and improvisation, students will contrast non-European source material with traditional sources as vehicles for engaging learning standards.</p> <p>Students will learn how to derive scales from chord progressions and improvise.</p>	<p>Playing tests of "Ode to Joy," "Minuet in G," and "Ocho Kandelikas."</p> <p>Graded discussion of Julian Bream, Wes Montgomery, Sheryl Bailey, Joe Negri, and Derek Trucks and their right hand approach</p> <p>Performance of common chord progressions in the key of C, G, D, and A.</p> <p>Students will play a 12 bar blues as a soloist and accompanist.</p> <p>Given a chord progression in the key of C, students will choose an appropriate scale and improvise a solo.</p>

Program-Level Outcomes Addressed:

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 Good citizenship and personal integrity –
6. Building pragmatic links with educational programs in diverse communities

Course Requirements and Assessment: You will have assignments due each week. Most of these will be guitar performances designed to extend your teaching capabilities. These assignments will reflect your mastery of a given guitar skill. It is important to consider not only how this music can be performed well but also what instructional approaches will best serve your students. These weekly assignments will culminate in a blues performance that will include melody, accompaniment, and improvisation.

- Since everyone comes to this course with a varied degrees of prior knowledge and experience, it is very important that you demonstrate integrity in your work. Week by week, students must demonstrate development as a guitar player and instructor. No matter your level, allow these assignments to expand your musicianship and instructional practice.
- Students are encouraged to bring their critical thinking skills to each assignment and lesson. Always ask yourself how you will teach this material and how you would deviate from the instruction provided in this course.

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. 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 the final day of the course. That is a firm deadline for all course work.

Instructional Materials: The required text for this course is Introduction to Guitar by Joe Sweet.

- For further fretboard study I recommend “Common Sense Approach to Improvisation” by Joe Negri from Mel Bay Publications.

Course Bibliography: Introduction to Guitar by Joe Sweet
Common Sense Approach to Improvisation by Joe Negri

Course Calendar or Schedule:

- One video recording of your performance of the "Ode to Joy" melody.
- One video recording of your performance of our warm-up exercise

- three separate videos of the student playing Major, minor, and Dominant 7th chords in open position
- One video of your performance of "Minuet in G."
- One video of your performance of "Ocho Kandelikas."
- One video of you playing the Major scale No. 1 and 2
- One video of your performance of 4 Barre chords
- One video of you playing through "12 bar blues in E."

Attendance Policy:

- Students must log in to the course throughout each week. Those who interact with this course material on a daily basis will have an enduring learning experience. Those who try to "cram" through this course may find difficulty in retaining these skills.
- Students who do not watch the course videos should not expect to pass the class. The course videos and my feedback on your submissions make up the instruction for this course.

Candidate Conduct

"An important part of VanderCook's Conceptual Framework and Candidate Dispositions and Outcomes is the focus on professionalism and character. Specific descriptors include participation as well as attendance, flexibility in the face of changing circumstances and institutional needs, the commitment to continual personal development, self-reflection and growth, respect for the academic community and the individuals and resources of that community, and behavior, speech and dress that is appropriate and respectful in the educational environment. Failure to observe standards of professional behavior may result in referral to the Standards Committee and/or the appropriate dean. Consistent concerns in this area will have an impact on successful completion of the program."

- Cell Phone/Computer Policy: <<Candidate Conduct Continued: Cell phone/computer policy:>>

Health and Safety

VanderCook College of Music is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Basic information regarding the maintenance of health and safety within the contexts of practice, performance, teaching and listening is provided throughout the academic year. Health and safety information specific to this course will be addressed. It is the responsibility of each individual musician to take an active role in making informed decisions to help maintain their own health and safety.

Academic Honesty

"Candidates are expected to maintain the highest standards of integrity in their academic work. Failure to do so will jeopardize a candidate's success in the program. Examples of academic dishonesty include:

- Presenting another's words, music, or concepts as your own by failing to acknowledge or properly cite the source.
- Communicating or receiving answers or information to/from another in a testing situation.

- Consulting notes or any other source of answers/information in a testing situation, unless the instructor authorizes such access.
- Making available or accessing tests or quizzes from current or previous classes unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Bringing, by any means, answers or information into a testing situation except as explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Collaborating or turning in jointly produced work on any test or assignment that is intended to reflect individual effort.”

Plagiarism

“Plagiarism means taking someone else’s words, ideas, data or work and presenting them as your own. This could mean an exact duplication of someone else’s work without proper citation of the source, or it could mean you present it with only small changes and do not cite the source. Plagiarism can occur in art, music, literature, or technology – really in any area of intellectual work.

All work submitted should be properly credited to the original source of the information or idea whether the source is a book, Internet site, article, or any other medium. In written work, quotation marks or block indentations show direct quotations and the source must be cited. If information that is not common knowledge is paraphrased or summarized from a source, that source (including websites) must be cited. Failure to do so in academic assignments represents cheating and carries the appropriate penalties.

Copyright compliance is the goal of VanderCook College. Information to help with clarification of what constitutes fair use of copyrighted material, including photocopying, is on permanent reserve in the Ruppel Library.

No candidate should expect to receive a passing grade on any test or assignment that reflects dishonesty or academic irregularity. Cheating in any form may result in failure of the class and academic expulsion.”

Disability Statement

“If a student has a disability which might interfere with that student’s ability to function in this course it is the responsibility of that student to notify the instructor at the beginning of the course.”