

**University of Florida**  
**School of Music**  
**MVS 1116 Class Guitar (Introductory Level)**  
**Dr. Silviu Ciulei**  
**Fall 2025**  
**T | Period 9 (4:05 PM - 4:55 PM)**  
**MUB 0145**  
**Email: [sciulei@arts.ufl.edu](mailto:sciulei@arts.ufl.edu)**  
**Phone: 352-273-3171**  
**Office: University Music Auditorium #301**  
**Office Hours: M/W 10:00-11:00 a.m. or by appointment**

## **SYLLABUS**

### **Text**

Marsters, Nancy. First Year Guitar, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Tallahassee: Class Guitar Resources, 2015.

Requisite materials include an acoustic guitar with nylon (classical) or steel strings (no solid body electric guitars) and a guitar footstool.

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course is an introduction to guitar skills and is intended for students with no prior experience. Emphasis will be on the achievement of basic proficiency in chord playing, note reading, strumming patterns and basic finger styles. A variety of musical styles will be explored. Students are encouraged to ask questions during, before, or after class regarding specific playing goals and projects. Students will complete all assigned material and will practice a minimum of 30 minutes per day.

### **Attendance**

Attendance for any instrument class is imperative.

Students who are absent from class are responsible for materials covered during that class period. Lack of an instrument or textbook after the first day of class will be considered an unexcused absence. Each subsequent unexcused absence will lower the student's final grade by one grade increment (B becomes B-, etc.)

### **Evaluation**

Proficiencies: 75% total (Exam 1 – 25%, Midterm – 25%, Final Exam – 25%)

Proficiency areas include chords, chord progressions, note reading, song techniques and scales. Proficiency due dates will be announced in class. Proficiencies are performed in class and are graded. The average of the proficiency grades will determine this portion of the student's final grade. The number of proficiencies is subject to change through the course of the semester. The class will be notified of such changes at least two weeks prior to the end of the semester.

Assignments and class participation: 25% total (see participation rubric attached)

Assignments will be group projects, looking up chord progressions and learning songs, printing materials in preparation for class. Class participation means actually being present in class, attentive, answering questions and showing knowledge of the materials covered in class, asking questions about certain aspects relating to class, and playing along with the rest of the class.

### **Class Participation Rubric**

Criteria	1	2	3	4
Preparation	<u>Unprepared</u> for class with assignments, homework, and required class materials (guitar, footstool, book)	<u>Partially prepared</u> for class with assignments, homework, and required class materials (guitar, footstool, book)	<u>Mostly prepared</u> for class with assignments, homework, and required class materials (guitar, footstool, book)	<u>Fully prepared</u> for class with assignments, homework, and required class materials (guitar, footstool, book)
Musical Engagement	<u>Does not participate</u> in musical activities (e.g., singing, listening, playing instruments, answering questions about covered material). Exhibits a lack of interest in the activities	<u>Some participation</u> in musical activities (e.g., singing, listening, playing instruments, answering questions about covered material)	<u>Active participation</u> in musical activities (e.g., singing, listening, playing instruments, answering questions about covered material) has occasional lapses in participation	<u>Active participation</u> in musical activities (e.g., singing, listening, playing instruments, answering questions about covered material) throughout the entire class

### **Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to change)**

Week 1 – Getting Started (Posture, Sitting Position, Holding the Guitar)
Week 2 – Playing Rhythm Guitar
Week 3 – Playing the Melody
Week 4 – Playing R-5 Bass and the Three-Person Combo
Week 5 – Barre Chords
Week 6 – Exam I
Week 7 – Major Scales and Key Signatures
Week 8 – Arpeggios
Week 9 – Tablature
Week 10 – Natural Notes: Frets 1-12
Week 11 – Midterm
Week 12 – The 6/8 Time Signature
Week 13 – Rock Guitar: Power Chords, Electric Guitar and Amp Features
Week 14 – Major Scales and Chords
Week 15 – Transposition and Capo Use
Finals Week – Final Exam

**Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:**

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>