MUP 109-012 and 119-012 - Applied Electric Guitar
Syllabus
Fall 2018

Instructor: Nicholas Lambson
Email: lambsonnf@sfasu.edu
(preferred method of contact)
Office Phone: (936) 468-4534
Office: Fine Arts Annex 106

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment
Course times: TBD
Credits: One
Class Location: Fine Arts Annex 106

109 and 309:
One semester hour credit, one-half hour instruction per week. For secondary or minor instrument, non-majors and undeclared majors. Placement audition required.

119 and 319:
Two semester hours credit, one hour instruction per week plus studio class weekly. For music majors in music degree programs. Placement audition required.

This course provides weekly instruction on guitar. As guitarists, students will work toward a standard of excellence commensurate with musical studies at our university. This course will facilitate students in becoming proficient musicians and educators upon graduation by imparting the skills, musicianship, knowledge of the repertoire, understanding of musical styles and history relating to being a well-rounded guitarist. To that end, assignments and assessment will be somewhat varied, but will focus primarily on attaining the requisite skills to become fluent on the guitar.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate proper technique to facilitate ease of playing and avoid injury.
2. Students will develop note accuracy.
3. Students will demonstrate good rhythm.
4. Students will play a variety of exercises and studies.
5. Students will be exposed to a variety of musical genres.
6. Students will work toward developing an overall level of musicianship.
7. Students will learn about guitar music and articulate their understanding.
8. Students will perform in a variety of contexts.
Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate experience and expertise in music technology hardware and software for live sound reinforcement, recording, editing, mixing, producing, MIDI sequencing, and notation.
2. Students will demonstrate broad knowledge of the music industry.
3. Students will have developed and honed their skills as musicians and recording artists.
4. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of various studio and live sound equipment operations.
5. Students will be prepared to pursue careers in the music industry and/or graduate studies in music and sound technology.

Required Materials:

- Students must have their own instruments. Amplifiers are available in the instructor’s studio for lessons.
- Students must put new strings on their instruments one to two weeks prior to any performance
- Students may be asked to purchase method books, studies, sheet music, accessories, etc. as determined by the instructor.
- Access campus email and online resources including MS Office and Brightspace

Evaluations and Assessments:

50% Lessons
30% Performance
10% Listening
10% Summary

Course Requirements:

Lessons:

Lesson preparedness is crucial to the progress any student can hope to achieve. Besides needing to put in the requisite time to develop muscle memory, memorize pieces, etc., students must be making a concerted effort to progress between lessons so that the instructor can continue to provide the students with the next steps on their path to becoming a better musician. Students should plan to practice one to three hours per day - every day unless they are sick or something directly prevents them from doing so - to maintain forward progress. Even one to two "days off" can often be a set back in the progress a student was making prior to that break. That
said, if a student absolutely cannot do more than ten minutes every great once in a while, ten minutes is vastly superior to nothing.

That said, the quality of the practice is of primary importance; not the amount of practice. One hour of good practice techniques will yield results that are exponentially better than eight hours per day with bad practice techniques. Besides making poor progress, one could end up with a chronic injury such as tendonitis or carpal tunnel. Spending some time warming up, doing exercises, using proper technique, and taking breaks are required for anyone who wants a life-long career in music. If a student ever experiences pain or discomfort related to playing, they should stop, take a break, and contact the instructor immediately for assistance.

Students should be tuned up and ready to go prior to each lesson, and must have their books, scores, etc. with them each day.

If a student is ill or must miss for any reason, contact the instructor as soon as possible. In some cases, a make-up lesson may be scheduled at the discretion and availability of the instructor.

Students are urged not to come to their lesson when they are ill both to allow the student time to rest and recover, and to protect others from catching their illness.

**Listening Assignment:**

Students will listen to or watch two professional recordings of their piece(s) and submit a summary. This will facilitate active listening skills and provide a frame of reference as they progress through in-class recording sessions throughout the semester. Students may include the performers, the venues, etc. including musical traits including tonality, tempo, etc. In 200-300 words, this paper should also compare and contrast the recordings as well as explain how you plan to apply what you heard or watched to your own performance.

**Summary:**

At the end of the semester, students will summarize their experiences over the semester. Students may include topics such as technique or rhythm, or anything else that was significant for them.

**Performances:**

Students will perform in some context over the course of the semester. This may comprise of a jury or a performance in a concert, recital, workshop, or similar event as determined by the instructor. Guidelines and opportunities will be distributed later in the semester.
Due dates and late submissions:

Unless otherwise stated in class or in writing, all assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the day that they are due.

Late assignments (not presentations) may be submitted late at the instructor’s discretion. If accepted late, a 20 point penalty will be assessed for the first 24 hours that it is late. Afterwards, each assignment will lose 10 points per day for each subsequent 24 hours.

Attendance and Participation Policy:
All students at SFA are expected to meet a high standard to reflect the university’s motto, “Striving For Personal Excellence In Everything That We Do.” Therefore, in addition to excellence outside of the classroom with a student’s studies, assignments, and activities, students are expected to excel as students during each class session; this extends to both attendance and participation.

Furthermore, being in attendance and on time is not sufficient if a student is not participating. Any student who is on their electronic devices, fails to participate in activities, leaves class frequently, or anything else that inhibits their learning or the learning of others will be at least be marked absent for the day at the instructor’s discretion.

If a student is experiencing hardship, they are encouraged to see the instructor for guidance. If significant absences are due to illness, injury, family emergencies, etc. documentation may be waived at the discretion of the instructor; documentation may be required.

Students will lose 10 points of their final grade for an unexcused absence. Another absence will lower the final grade an additional 20 points. A third unexcused absence will result in failing the course.

Classroom Policies:
Our field of study, Sound Recording Technology, is a special field of study and we are fortunate to have such a program here at SFASU. We get to work and learn with specialized, and sometimes very, fragile and expensive equipment. Thus, the SRT program and associated classes have some specialized classroom rules that you may not be accustomed to in other university classes.

1. Wash your hands before entering class. In addition to helping to not spread germs and illness, we will be working on shared computer systems, mixers, and other equipment. Much of the equipment is hard to thoroughly clean and oil build up from your hands can also degrade the equipment. Washing your hands before class is a win-win for everyone and the university’s equipment.
2. Good Hygiene: Unlike a large format lecture class, where your professor is far away from you and only a few students may be in close proximity to you, we will all be working close
together. At times, you and I will be side by side learning about materials, components, tools, and techniques used in SRT. For your health and the sake of your colleagues and I, please practice good hygiene.

3. Respect: You should know how to appropriately conduct yourself as a respectful and thoughtful adult. With that being said, demonstrating disrespect toward your colleagues, your instructor, equipment, or this institution will not be tolerated.
   a. Special note: if you ever have hopes of working in the music industry, you will need to know how to get along with all sorts of people(s).

4. No texting in class.

5. Respect the equipment: you will be fortunate enough to work with some really special and expensive equipment. Please handle this equipment with the utmost care. Never drop a microphone. Always be aware of yourself, surroundings, and others while handling the recording equipment.

SRT Lab Policies:
1. Only SRT students are allowed in the lab. School of music students are welcome if permission has been given by the director of the SRT program. Non-school of music students are never allowed in the lab without special permission, arrangement, or the presence of an SRT faculty member.
2. Adhere to your schedule times. Show up on time and leave on time. Our space is limited and we must be courteous to one another. Additionally, this is great practice for the real world or sharing studio and artistic spaces.
3. Never load or install programs on the SRT workstations...EVER.
4. Always bring your own headphones to the lab. You will do most of your lab work on headphones however, if no one else is in the lab, you are welcome to use the loudspeakers.
5. Back up your work on your personal thumb drive. Never expect your session to live on the SRT lab machines.
6. Safety! Never touch exposed wires! Some of our equipment is high powered and if it becomes damaged and unnoticed, exposed wires can pose a hazard to you and others. Report any exposed power wires to your instructor immediately. Do not attempt to deal with it yourself. Safety! Your hearing is extremely important. Do not listen to music or recordings at high levels for extended periods of time.

Recital Attendance:
Frequently throughout the year, students, faculty members and guest artists are presented in recitals by the School of Music and College of Fine Arts. These recitals are open to the public. Because performance and listening experiences constitute an area of major importance in the study of music, all music majors are required to enroll in MUP 100.001 for seven semesters with a minimum of 10 recitals and all convocations attended each semester. Music minors are required to enroll for two semesters in MUP 100.003 with a minimum of 10 recitals and all convocations attended each semester.
Course Evaluations:
Near the conclusion of each semester, students electronically evaluate courses they have taken. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including: 1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation; 2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and 3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Therefore, your response is critical.

Student Ethics and Other Policy Information: see http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/

Class Attendance and Excused Absence:
Policy 6.7 Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12 day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

Withheld Grades:
Policy 5.5 At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Student Academic Dishonesty:
Policy 4.1 Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: - using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam; - falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; - helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: - submitting an assignment as one's own
work when it is at least partly the work of another person; - submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; - incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. Student Appeals A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:
Policy 6.1 and 6.6 To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 936-468-3004 as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Student Code of Conduct:
Policy 10.4 Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This policy applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp or call the office at 936-468-2703.