

Spring 2-1-2016

# MUSI 160A.01: Beginning Guitar

Thomas P. Pertis

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [thomas.pertis@umontana.edu](mailto:thomas.pertis@umontana.edu)

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# **Beginning Guitar - Group Instruction**

## **MUSI 160A**

Spring 2016 Syllabus

**Sec 1.** TR 1:10 – 2:00 Rm. 218    **Sec 2.** MW 12:10 – 1:00 Rm. 218

### **Instructor**

Thomas Pertis – MUS108 - [Thomas.Pertis@umontana.edu](mailto:Thomas.Pertis@umontana.edu) . Office hours will be posted on my door.

### **Objective**

MUS160A offers guitar instruction to non-music majors and to music majors for whom guitar is not their primary instrument. This course fulfills a General Education Competency Requirement for Expressive Arts.

### **Requirements**

Each student must bring to class and maintain his/her own instrument. Although the course knowledge applies equally to electric guitar, an acoustic guitar must be used for this class. Please note that no amplifiers will be allowed.

The text for this course is *The Guitar Handbook by Ralph Denyer* and all students are expected to have it. An inexpensive music stand will also be required. Additional literature will be provided by the instructor.

Learning to play an instrument takes dedication, patience, and repetition. Students must make time to practice daily to achieve the goals set out in this course. Students with disabilities or special needs should talk with the instructor about their needs.

### **Curriculum**

The course begins with no assumption of prior guitar experience. The following topics will be taught in this class:

- Guitar playing fundamentals
  - Language and anatomy of the guitar
  - Correct posture of body and hands
  - Achieving good tone and articulation
  - Care and maintenance of your instrument
- Accompaniment Techniques
  - Common chords and rhythmic figures
  - Chord theory (Major/minor/dominant)
- Basic Melodic Techniques
  - Scales and the notes of the neck
  - Reading in first position
  - Common guitar keys
  - Single-note techniques
- Overview of Guitar Literature
  - Standard Notation, Charts, and Tablature
- Ensemble playing skills
  - Listening and musical courtesy
- Sight reading

### **Grading**

Each student's performance will be graded on the following scale: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, F. The criteria for grading will be: class attendance and preparation, written homework, and performance effort. A grade of C reflects that the student has met the expectations of the course and shows acceptable improvement.

This course may be taken for Credit/No Credit. Extra credit may be made available and changes may be made to the requirements of the course to benefit the students.

### **Academic Misconduct & Student Conduct Code:**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umt.edu/SA/VPESA/Index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPESA/Index.cfm/page/1321).