



Community Education Winter 2025

Beginning Guitar I/II

Instructor: Doug Smith

E-Mail: dsmithguitar@aol.com

Course Description:

Under the guidance of a Grammy-winning guitarist, learn the basics of how to play the guitar. Focus on tuning, basic chords, picking, strumming, note reading, and chord progressions. As you progress you will add more notes and chords as well as more complex rhythms and strumming patterns. Ultimately you will play songs as a group. Bring your guitar to class. See webpage for textbook information. Ages 15 and over.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Know how to tune a guitar by ear.
2. Get a clear tone on single notes.
3. Understand (but necessarily be fluent in) reading standard notation.
4. Know how to read guitar tablature
5. Know the location of the natural notes in the first position.
6. Know a few basic chords, such as D, G, A7, Em and C
7. Keep time with a basic strum
8. Learn the basics of Fingerpicking

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Jan. 10 - Introduction to class. Book pages 4 to 12, the basics: different types of guitars, how to hold the guitar, right and left hand positions, holding a pick, and getting a clear tone on single notes. Tuning the guitar by ear. (after that, electronic and clip-on tuners are welcome.)

Week 2: Jan 17 - Book pages 16 and 17, tablature. Handout: Aura Lee and Ode to Joy in tablature. Book pages 13 to 15, G and D7 chords and basic strumming.

Week 3: Jan. 24 - Handout: Natural notes in the First Position. review Aura Lee and Ode to Joy. Book pages 24 to 27, note reading and notes on the first string. Review G and D7 chords and add C chord. Smooth Sailing from book. Handout: song using all three chords.

Week 4: Jan 31 - Review notes on the first string and 1st String Exercise, page 27. Book pages 28 and 29, notes on the second string. Review G, D7 and C chord songs. Handout: D, A7 and G chords.

Week 5: Feb. 7 - Review notes on the second string. Book pages 30 and 31, notes on the 3rd string. Review D, A7 and G chords. Handout: Song using these chords.

Week 6: Feb 14 - Review notes on the 3rd string. Book pages 32 and 33, notes on the 4th string and eighth notes. Handout: Am, E, and Em chords

Week 7: Feb 21 - Review notes on the 4th string. Book pages 34 and 35, notes on the 5th string. Book pages 20 and 21, introduction to fingerpicking.

Week 8: Feb 28 - Review notes on the 5th string. Book page 36 notes on the 6th string. Handout: Strum Patterns. Review fingerpicking on pages 20 and 21.

Week 9: March 6 - Review notes on the 6th string. Review fingerpicking on pages 20 and 21.

Bibliography/Resources:

Materials used are the book Guitar For the Absolute Beginner by Susan Mazer, and handouts.

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your “junk mail,” but we can assure you it’s from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation, please email Continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.

Inclement Weather:

If the College cancels due to icy conditions you can find this on the college website www.clark.edu ~ If Community Education concludes that the weather is too hazardous we may also decide to cancel this class. In that case you will receive both a phone call and email. Make certain that we have your correct contact information by viewing the class roster.

Looking for classes? Visit our Community Education webpage: www.clark.edu/cce/