

Syllabus for  
**MUS 207 - Guitar Skills and Improvisation**  
2 Credit hours  
Fall 2010

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the mechanics of contemporary worship using acoustic guitar and the improvisational techniques associated with it.

Prerequisites- Successful completion of Music Theory Entrance exam or “Fundamentals of Music,” (MUS 100).

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to help the student through classroom skill development, technique practice, and practical worship seminars to be able to lead or facilitate worship using a variety of acoustic guitar styles. The class is designed for the intermediate guitarist and among other things, will focus on key areas such as basic chord theory and progressions, rhythmic strumming skills, transposing, style and basic lead concepts. This broad approach will also include much class participation with worship service style application. Students will perform in groups of twos and threes throughout the semester.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of completing this course successfully, the student will be able to demonstrate the following:

- A. Understand chord theory and chord progressions.
- B. Use the capo and apply it to transposition.
- C. Interpret chord diagrams in various formats (lead sheets, choir scores) using appropriate rhythm and style.
- D. Play a variety of rhythmic styles smoothly and in proper tempo.
- E. Finger pick a variety of rhythmic styles smoothly and in proper tempo.
- F. Demonstrate the skills of basic lead guitar.
- G. Use chord forms above the third fret.
- H. Develop skills in singing and playing simultaneously

IV. TEXTBOOK AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Required Materials
  - 1. Textbooks

LaFleur, Bill. Ultimate Guitar Technique: The Complete Guide. Hal Leonard Corporation, Milwaukee, WI, 2006. ISBN 0 634 08683 9

The Original Praise and Worship Songbook: Singers Edition in Fake Book Format. Brentwood Benson Music Publishing Inc, Franklin TN, 2004.  
ISBN 1598020013

Wallach, Howard. How To Play Guitar in Every Key. Illinois: JT Pub, 1997.  
ISBN 1585609579

2. Other  
Playable and tuneable acoustic steel string guitar  
A metronome

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks  
None
2. Other  
None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
  5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
    - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
    - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.
- B. Department Policies and Procedures – See the Music Department Student Handbook
- C. Course Policies and Procedures
1. Evaluation Procedures
    - a. Have an average of 70 or above in all exams and class work (50% of grade).
    - b. Participate in all class activities in both roles (this includes attendance) – worship leader and congregation (50% of grade).
  2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements  
There are no WPA requirements for this course.
  3. Other Course Policies and Procedures
    - a. Equipment Requirements  
Each student must have:
      - (1) A working guitar
      - (2) A metronome
      - (3) A capo

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR

<b>Week 1</b>	Introduction, Basic Chord Theory, pp 4-9 Wallach; rhythms, left hand concerns pp 5-9 La Fleur
<b>Week 2</b>	Basic Chord Theory, Chords in key of C and G pp10-13 Wallach, Rhythms pp 82-84 LaFluer, eighth note and sixteenth note groove. <b>In the Secret</b> , P&W Singing and Playing, <b>Quiz</b> (10%)
<b>Week 3</b>	Chords in key of D and A pp14-17, Rhythm, <b>Come, Now Is the Time</b> P&W, <b>Mighty to Save (handout)</b> Test (20%)
<b>Week 5</b>	Chords in key of E pp18-19 Wallach, <b>Open the Eyes of My Heart, Better is One Day</b> P&W.
<b>Week 4</b>	Arpeggiating and Classical Basics pp 88-95 LaFleur, Rhythms pp 85-88 LaFleur; <b>Hungry, Forever</b> P&W.
<b>Week 6</b>	Transposition <b>Heart of Worship, Be Thou My Vision</b> P&W

<b>Week 7</b>	Capo and Keys, Transposition, <b>Everlasting God (handout), Mid-Term Exam (20%)</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	Changing Keys, Bar and Moveable Chords pp 37-39 Wallach; Chord Voicings pp 56-61 Wallach, <b>Trading My Sorrows, Dock of the Bay</b> (handout) P&W
<b>Week 9</b>	Chord Extensions (Handout), <b>Test (20%)</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	Different Worship Styles, Flat Keys and Piano Driven Songs
<b>Weeks 12&amp;13</b>	Basic Lead: Pentatonics and Blues Scales (handout), pp 11-75 (selected areas) LaFleur, <b>Quiz (10%)</b>
<b>Weeks 14&amp;15</b>	Songs, pp 11-75 (selected areas) LaFleur
<b>Week 15</b>	Amps and Guitar Effects and Their Use in Worship (handout).
<b>Final (20%)</b>	

## Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

### Guitar Skills and Improvisation MUS 207 Fall 2010

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge				X
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit			X	
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior			X	
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation	X			
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle			X	
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle		X		
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills		X		
4B	Interpersonal skills		X		
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences		X		
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity			X	