

Music 121 F Beginning Slack Key Guitar
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TTH: 1:30 - 2:30 (62279)

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Loo
OFFICE: Palanakila 144
OFFICE HOURS: Mon: 1:00 - 3:00
Tues: 9:10 - 9:40, 2:45 - 4:15
Wed: 1:00 - 3:00
TELEPHONE: 236-9144, rloo@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2009

Windward Community College Mission Statement

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

Basic principles of slack key guitar performance; relevant problems in literature. Students will learn to play two (2) tunings: Taro Patch (Open G major) and Double Slack (G major 7th).

ACTIVITIES REQUIRED AT OTHER THAN REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES:

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE: Optional.
FIELD TRIP(S): Optional.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of slack key guitar development.
- Apply knowledge of basic concepts in accurate performances.
- Use knowledge of slack key techniques and music concepts (music theory) to complete in-class recitals.
- Perform with some confidence in class performances.

COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics

- History of Slack Key Guitar
- Beat, Tempo, Harmony, Chord, Melody
- Major Scale Applications
- Tunings, Chords, Vamps for:
 - Taro Patch
 - Double Slack
- Principles of Performance:
 - Accuracy of Performance
 - Fluidness of Performance
 - Timing, Tonal Quality, and Presence
- Tablature System of Notation
- Slack Key Techniques
- Slack Key Literature
- Parts of the Slack Key Guitar

Skills

1. Identify and explain the significance of persons and/or events in the development of slack key guitar.
2. Use the components of music in both the performance and creation of music.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of melodies, chords, vamps, and tunings.
4. Use a standard pitch or relative method to tune the guitar.
5. Use the principles of performance in in-class and semester recitals.
6. Use slack key techniques in in-class and semester recitals.
7. Perform vamps, chords, and melodies from tablature notation.
8. Identify the parts of the slack key guitar.

COURSE TASKS:

1. Participate in bi-monthly in-class performances. This activity will require you to use basic concepts in music theory, observe principles of performance, use tablature notation, and/or demonstrate slack key techniques and knowledge of slack key tunings, vamps, chords, in playing exercises and/or excerpts from solos.
2. Perform two (2) simple slack key solos at the end of the course, one solo in each of the following tunings: Taro Patch (Open G major), Double Slack (G maj. 7th). This task will require you to use basic concepts in music theory, observe principles of performance, use tablature notation, and/or demonstrate slack key techniques in playing slack key solos.
3. Complete an in-class exam without the aid of reference materials. The exam will require you to demonstrate your understanding of the history of slack key, basic concepts in music theory, tunings (Taro Patch and Double Slack), chords, vamps, and slack key literature.
4. Write a biography (2 double-spaced, typewritten pages in length with 1 inch margins) on one (1) of the following topics.
 - A. Slack Key Guitar Master (Person who is recognized as a master by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.) Examples: Sonny Chillingworth, Gabby Pahinui, Leonard Kwan, Raymond Kane, Ledward Ka'apana.
 - B. Slack Key Artist (Person who specializes in slack key.) Examples: Makana, Mike Ka'awa, Bobby Moderow, Bla Pahinui, Dwight Kanae.

This assignment is due at the completion of the 11th week of the course. See the instructor for format of this report.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION:

The following learning modes are available to students in keeping with the philosophy of the college that alternative modes of learning be offered in recognition of the different learning styles of its students.

1. Traditional mode: consists of short lecture/demonstration sessions where classroom attendance is necessary for optimum results.

MODE OF INSTRUCTION:

2. Independent Study: consists of a course of study which involves a contractual understanding between the student and the instructor where material can be pursued more independently than in the traditional mode of learning. (NOTE: The student must inform the instructor during the first week of class about the mode of learning he/she will adopt.)

3. Specific strategies used by the instructor:
 - a. CD's of songs for the course.
 - b. Peer teaching techniques.
 - c. Demonstration of slack key techniques.
 - d. Handouts (designed by the instructor).
 - e. Assigned readings.
 - f. Short lectures (on history of slack key, basic concepts in music theory, principles of performance, tablature notation.)

METHOD OF GRADING:

1. Letter grades will be assigned based on the number of points earned for the course.

A: 448 - 510

B: 385 - 447

C: 322 - 384

D: 259 - 321

F: 196 - 258

W: Official withdrawal from the course. (This option must be initiated by the student.)

METHOD OF GRADING:

2. Relative weight of tasks performed:

Bi-monthly in-class performances	160 = (8 x 20)
Slack key solos	160 = (2 x 80)
In-class exam	80 = (1 x 80)
Biography	80 = (1 x 80)
Attendance	<u>30</u> = (15 x 02)
	510

3. Criteria for evaluating in-class performances/solos:

- a. Accuracy of performance - Adherence to dynamic/tempo markings/key signature.
- b. Fluidness of performance - Did the music flow or was it haltingly performed?
- c. Timing - Rhythmic meter. Was the rhythmic meter discernible?
- d. Tonal Quality - Quality of the notes played. Freedom from buzzes and string noise.
- e. Presence - Ease with which the music was performed. Did the student maintain his/her poise throughout the performance?

LEARNING RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

1. Recommended texts:

Brennan, J.
Carol Wilcox,
Kimo Hussey,
Vick Hollinger,
Puakea Nogelmeier

Paniolo
He Mele Aloha: A Hawaiian
Songbook

2. Required text:

Loo, R.

He Kalana Kakau Ki Ho'alu:
Helu `Ekahi

3. Other materials:

- a. Other materials (designed by the instructor) will be disseminated in class.
- b. Reading materials will be assigned as appropriate.

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Extra Credit:
Students can earn 30 points by participating in the Semester Recital.
2. Type of course:
This is a performance course. It will demand approximately five (5) hours of practice time per week outside of class meetings.
3. Attendance:
Since "learning is by doing" in this course, students with erratic attendance rarely do well.
4. Bi-monthly in-class performances:
These performances are scheduled for Thursdays and require students to perform exercises and/or excerpts from simple solos. Missed bi-monthly in-class performances can be made up only for documented illnesses or for valid emergencies (accidents, military call up.)
5. Cell phones and/or pagers:
Please set cell phones and/or pagers to "silent" to allow the class to focus on the lesson of the day.
6. Classroom etiquette:
Please refrain from working on/playing material unrelated to the course because it distracts the class from the lesson of the day.
7. Options for slack key solos include: Lili'u E, Waikapu, Ka Manu, Old Timer's Hula.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, HYPERLINK "mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu" lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information. Revised May 10, 2007

Schedule of Weekly Performances

Week 2: (Sept. 03 – TH)

- A) Play tablature exercise 3.
- B) Play tablature exercise 4.

Week 4: (Sept. 17 – TH)

- A) Play tablature exercise 5.
- B) Play tablature exercise 6.

Week 6: (Oct. 01 – TH)

- A) Play tablature exercise 4.
- B) Play the 1st 3 staves of Lili'u E.

Week 8: (Oct. 15 – TH)

- A) Play 2 vamps in Taro Patch tuning.
- B) Play last 3 staves of Lili'u E.

Week 10: (Oct. 29 – TH)

- A) Play 1st 3 staves of Waikapu.
- B) Play the following chords in Taro Patch: G, C, D7.

Week 12: (Nov. 12 – TH)

- A) Play 2 vamps in Double Slack tuning.
- B) Play 1st 3 staves of Ka Manu.

Week 14: (Dec. 03 – TH)

- A) Play last 3 staves of Ka Manu.
- B) Play the following chords in Double Slack: G, C, D7.

Week 15: (Dec. 10 – TH)

- A) Play 2 vamps from memory in either Taro Patch or Double Slack tuning.
- B) Play the last 3 staves of Waikapu.