MUS 121Z & MUS 122Z Beginning ‘Ukulele
Windward Community College
2 credits total
Online Course (Asynchronous)
No In-Person Meetings

Instructor: Mika Kane
Email: mikaelk@hawaii.edu
Office Hours: Fridays from 1:00 – 2:00pm in my Zoom Room (You can also schedule an appointment with me through email to meet up on Zoom)
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall ‘21 Semester: August 23 – December 17, 2021

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide the Ko‘olau region of O‘ahu and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

MUS 121Z: Introductory course in ‘ukulele. Basic principles of performance; history and development of ‘ukulele playing methods. Focus on principles of performance. Course is intended for students with little or no experience in playing the ukulele. May be repeated for up to 6 credits.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of taking this course, students can expect to attain the following outcomes:

MUS 121Z:

• Discuss the history of ‘ukulele development.
- Demonstrate basic concepts, such as rhythm, notation, dynamics, and expression in accurate performances.
- Strum chords in different keys, applying music theory applications.
- Learn and demonstrate professional performance practices.

**COURSE TASKS**

**Attendance:** The method of teaching this semester will be done completely online and asynchronously in the comfort of your desired space. Due to there being no dedicated meeting time, attendance will not be counted towards your final grade for this class.

**Participation:** The method of teaching this semester will be done completely online in the comfort of your desired space. Due to the constant change of times with COVID-19 and other unstable circumstances, this course will be done asynchronously, meaning that there will be no dedicated meeting time. This will allow you to work at your desired pace of learning as all lessons will be recorded and uploaded to Laulima on the Monday of the new week. Furthermore, if you would like to attend my recording session while I record my lesson of the week, you are free to do so. Although you will be muted, there will be opportunities to ask questions during the live recording (I will simply pause the recording to answer questions). I will announce ahead of time when I will be conducting my live recordings as it will vary throughout the semester. These are completely voluntary to attend.

**Assignments:** Lesson recordings will be uploaded every Monday via Laulima in the Resources Tab of that week. The assignment(s) of that lesson recording will be due at the end of that week on Sunday at 11:59pm. Assignments will mostly be in video response format, meaning I will ask you to either talk out or to play for me the assignment. I will explain any other forms of assignments if it comes up during the semester. All video assignments will be recorded and uploaded through Flipgrid. I will be posting a video during the 1st week of instruction on how to setup and use Flipgrid.

Since we are learning how to play an instrument, there will be some expectation to practice your instrument at least a few hours a week. Successful completion of assignments will require you to practice. So please, practice! Assignments will make up 75% of your final grade for this class.

**Final:** For your final, there will be two (2) parts to it:

The first part of your final will be a zoom session with me, in which I will ask you to play various things that we have covered throughout the semester. Not to worry, I will provide a list of the things that I can potentially ask you to play/show me. Think of this as talking story with me about the things we learned this semester. We will schedule a time to zoom during the week before finals week (between December 6-10). This portion of your final will be 10% of your final grade.
The second part of your final will have you record yourself playing Elvis’s *Can’t Help Falling in Love*. I will be teaching this song in fingerstyle throughout the latter-half the semester. Although this song is relatively on the easier side, I will be teaching various intermediate-advanced techniques that will make this song, what I like to call it, “unnecessarily difficult”. These techniques will be executed and displayed in this song, thus the reason for me choosing this song as your final. Details on what will be asked for when playing this song will be discussed when I introduce the song during the semester. This recording will be due during the last week of the semester, or during finals week. I will decide on a date later in the semester and will inform you accordingly. This portion of the final will count as 10% of your final grade.

**ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 Introduction/Playing</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (5 pts. x 15 sessions)</td>
<td>75 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Part 1</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Part 2</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total = 100 points

**Grading Scale:**
- A = 100% - 90%
- B = 89% - 80%
- C = 79% - 70%
- D = 69% - 60%
- F = 59% - 0%

**LEARNING RESOURCES**

Each student is required to have an ukulele AND a tuner by the ending of the first week of class (August 29). All assignments or resources will be uploaded to Laulima or provided by me via email. No textbooks are needed for this class, save money! Please be able to have a quiet space to record yourself to submit video assignments whether it is on your laptop, computer, or phone.

For those of you who live off island (or even on island), please check out [www.theukulelesite.com](http://www.theukulelesite.com) for the best deals on ukuleles and accessories. For those of you who live on island, The UkuleleSite has a store in North Shore, Haleiwa. For those of you that live in town, Dan’s Guitar’s and Easy Music Center are excellent choices as well to find ukulele’s and accessories.

**DISABILITIES ACCOMODATIONS**

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 Accessibility Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Roy Inouye can be reached at (808) 235-7448, royinouy@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale Kāko’o 106 for more information.
SEX DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RESOURCES (TITLE IX)

Windward Community College is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, WCC has staff and resources to support and assist you. To report an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence, as well as receive information and support, please contact one of the following:

Kaahu Alo, Student Life Counselor & Designated Confidential* Advocate for Students  
Phone: (808) 235-7354  
Email: kaahualo@hawaii.edu  
Office: Hale ʻĀkoakoa 232  
*confidentiality is limited

Desrae Kahale, Mental Health Counselor & Confidential Resource  
Phone: (808) 235-7393  
Email: dkahale3@hawaii.edu  
Office: Hale Kākōʻo 101

Karla K. Silva-Park, Title IX Coordinator  
Phone: (808) 235-7468  
Email: karlas@hawaii.edu  
Office: Hale ʻĀkoakoa 220

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University’s Title IX resources and the University’s Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/

ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

- Location: Alakaʻi 121
- Phone: (808) 235-7422