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

Instructor: Mika Kane
Email: mikaelek@hawaii.edu
Office Hours: Fridays from 12:00 – 1:00pm in my Zoom Room
EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring ‘22 Semester (8 weeks): January 10 – March 4, 2022

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 asynchronous nature of this course, 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.

**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 send out an email on how to set up a Flipgrid account during the 1st week of class.*

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, especially since this is an accelerated 8-week course. Successful completion of assignments will require you to practice. So please, practice! Assignments will make up 70% of your final grade for this class. *Late Assignments will be penalized three (3) points if submitted after the deadline of Sunday 11:59pm (which means you can only get a maximum of 7/10 points).* If you need more time for an assignment, I will work something out with you; however, if you do not contact me, you will be penalized for any late submittal of an assignment.

**Ukulele History/Artists Paper:** This assignment will have you do some basic research on the early history of the ‘ukulele (I will pose some questions to help guide your writing) as well as writing about two (2) ukulele artists of your choice. I will post this assignment and its details in the Resources tab of Laulima at least by the end of the 2nd week of class.

**Final:** 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 of the semester. 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 final week of this course, which is during the week of February 28 – March 4. I will decide on a date later in the semester and will inform you accordingly. This final will count as 20% of your final grade.

**ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (10 pts. x 7 Flipgrid Uploads)</td>
<td>70 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukulele History/Artists Paper</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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</tbody>
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Total = 100 points

**Grading Scale:**
A = 100% - 90%
B = 89% - 80%
*C = 79% -70% (you need at least a C grade to receive credit for this class)*
D = 69% - 60%
F = 59% - 0%

**LEARNING RESOURCES**

Each student is required to have an ukulele AND a tuner (*downloading a free tuner app on your phone works too*) by the ending of the first week of class (January 16). 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 Kākoʻo 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