

APPLIED GUITAR LESSON  
MUS 255/455

By Appointment  
Room 222, McCain Auditorium

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**Course Overview and Syllabus**

**Required Text:** THE REALBOOK (Hal Leonard, Publ.)

**Required Instrument:** A jazz guitar

**Required CD:** THE REALBOOK PLAYALONG CD

**WHAT IT IS:**

This class is designed to teach guitarists how to play jazz  
It is designed to help develop your reading, soloing and comping skills

**WHAT IT IS NOT:**

This class is not designed for beginners.  
It is not designed to teach you how to take hot lead guitar solos in blues or rock genres.  
It is not designed to receive 'special requests' from students 'favorite song' list  
It is not designed to teach you how compose original tunes  
It is not designed to use "TAB" (tablature)

**MAIN GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

The main goals are to develop a repertoire of songs that can be successfully performed in a typical jazz setting (jazz club). The ultimate objective, however, is to not only to be able to play jazz tunes from sheet music, but to also MEMORIZE THEM.

I. Commitment—This class is truly for those who are serious about playing the guitar (if you already know how to play guitar and are just looking for a teacher to help you learn rock or blues licks, this class is NOT for you--I will find you out and then remove you from my office). You will do well in this class if you:

- RENT/OWN AN ACTUAL JAZZ GUITAR
- Practice every day
- Memorize the changes and melody to the song
- Play in a jazz combo or big band

II. Skills—You are expected to develop and exhibit behaviors and performance tasks in jazz guitar lessons that directly reflect the learning experience.

- Chord skills—You should demonstrate left hand technique that reflect memorization and mastery of fingerings for effective performances
- Soloing Skills—You should use the jazz theory knowledge (harmonically) and apply it directly to the tunes you are working on (melodically)
- Picking/Strumming Technique— You should demonstrate right hand technique that reflect memorization and mastery of picking/strumming patterns for effective performances
- Teamwork—To better achieve your goal, it is always good to have a REAL PERFORMANCE SETTING with friends where you can practice, share knowledge, and demonstrate your skills outside of class (i.e., duo, trio, or quartet settings)

### **CLASS ACTIVITIES**

In short, the students in guitar lessons will spend the entire semester preparing for the “Big Show,” our final exam concert.

- Play the melody to the tune from memory
- Play the chord progression to the tune from memory
- Solo through the changes accurately from memory
- Use appropriate theoretical principles of harmony, melody when soloing

### **Grading System: (absences=@ minus10pts)**

Melody (10ptsx 10 tunes)	100 PTS
Chord Changes (10ptsx 10 tunes)	100 PTS
Soloing(10ptsx 10 tunes)	100 PTS
Memorization (10ptsx 10 tunes)	100 PTS
<b>ATTENDANCE, PREPARATION, ETC.</b>	<b>100 PTS</b>
<b>TOTAL =</b>	<b>500 PTS</b>

**Extra Credit:** This will be solely based on attendance, class participation, and demonstrating excellent performance skills pertinent to relevant subject matter in class. All points will be administered solely by the teacher’s discretion.

**Assignments/Projects:** You are expected to practice the material that correlate to the current class activities, including textbook, class notes, CD LISTENING, handouts and other assigned materials.

**Attendance:** This is class that meets twice a week. Missing one session is nearly equivalent to missing a full week of class. Your presence and participation is essential to your success in this class.

### **Statement Regarding Academic Honesty**

Kansas State University has an Honor System based on personal integrity, which is presumed to be sufficient assurance that, in academic matters, one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. The honor system website can be reached via the following URL: [www.k-state.edu/honor](http://www.k-state.edu/honor). A component vital to the Honor System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

### **Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who need classroom accommodations, access to technology, or information about emergency building/campus evacuation processes should contact the Student Access Center and/or their instructor. Services are available to students with a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to, physical disabilities, medical conditions, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, depression, and anxiety. If you are a student enrolled in campus/online courses through the Manhattan or Olathe campuses, contact the Student Access Center at [accesscenter@k-state.edu](mailto:accesscenter@k-state.edu), 785-532-6441; for Salina campus, contact the Academic and Career Advising Center at [acac@k-state.edu](mailto:acac@k-state.edu), 785-826-2649.

**Classroom Conduct:** All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the Student Judicial Conduct Code as outlined in the Student Governing Association By Laws, Article VI,

Section 3, number 2. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class.

***N.B.—I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus and course overview as necessary.***

**Important Note:** Since the nature of this class involves physical activity, the initial stages of instruction may require physical contact on fingers, hands, wrists, forearms, or elbows. Also, some students may be asked to cut fingernails on left and/or right hand.