Effective Semester / Session: Spring 2012

Type of Action:
- New [X]
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: MU 109

Course Title: Basic Ukulele

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:
To create a new hands-on, fine arts music course featuring a popular island musical instrument.

Lawrence Lee
10/24/11

Proposer

Thomas Sharts
10/24/11

Department Chair

Barbara Merfalen
10/24/11

Dean of Academic Programs and Services

1. **Department:** Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. **Purpose**
   This course is designed to introduce students to the Hawaiian musical instrument known as the ukulele. This ukulele course will take students who have had little or no previous experience in playing a musical instrument, and give them the ability and confidence to play basic chords and several songs on the ukulele. Students will learn the history, development, styles, parts, tuning, care and maintenance of the ukulele, as well as the fundamentals of music theory such as notes, scales, rhythm, timing, and chord families. This practical, hands-on course will focus on strumming various ukulele chords and singing songs while playing. Students will also gain the knowledge and skills to continue their learning path on their own after completing this course.

3. **Description**

   A. **Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials**
      Required: Ukulele, 3-ring binder, plastic sheet protectors.
      Readability level: Not applicable.

   B. **Contact Hours**
      1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 per semester
      2. **Lab:**
      3. **Other:**

   C. **Credits**
      1. **Number:** 3
      2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

   D. **Catalogue Course Description**
      This course is designed to introduce students to the Hawaiian musical instrument known as the ukulele. This ukulele course will take students who have had little or no previous experience in playing a musical instrument, and give them the ability and confidence to play basic chords and several songs on the ukulele. Students will learn the history, development, styles, parts, tuning, care and maintenance of the ukulele, as well as the fundamentals of music theory such as notes, scales, rhythm, timing, and chord families. This practical, hands-on course will focus on strumming various ukulele chords and singing songs while playing. Students will also gain the knowledge and skills to continue their learning path on their own after completing this course. Prerequisite: None. English Placement Level: EN 073/074. Math Placement Level: None. (Offered Fall and Spring)
E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course
   This course fulfills the fine arts requirement for associate degrees.

F. Course Activities and Design
   Instructional activities for the course will include lectures, discussion, videos, demonstrations, group activities, projects, guest musicians, and individual assignments.

4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)
   Prerequisite: None
   English Placement Level: EN 073/074
   Math Placement Level: None

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed
   Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course; cost of an ukulele.

   Cost to the College: Instructor’s salary.

   Instructional resources needed for this course include instructor’s computer system and software, printer, multimedia projector and projection screen, DVD player, flash drive, whiteboard, whiteboard markers, photocopied handouts, and appropriate reference materials.

6. Method of Evaluation
   Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

   A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0
   B: Above average – grade points: 3.0
   C: Average – grade points: 2.0
   D: Below average – grade points: 1.0
   F: Failure – grade points: 0.0

   NMC’s grading and attendance policies will be followed.
7. **Course Outline**
   This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

1.0 History and Development of the Ukulele

2.0 Ukulele Styles
   2.1 Soprano, concert, tenor, and baritone ukuleles
   2.2 4-string, 6-string, and 8-string ukuleles

3.0 Parts of the Ukulele

4.0 Care and Maintenance of the Ukulele

5.0 Tuning the Ukulele

6.0 Holding and Strumming the Ukulele
   6.1 Correct hand positioning for playing chords

7.0 Ukulele Playing Styles
   7.1 Strumming, picking, and combination
   7.2 Various strumming techniques
   7.3 Proper fingering techniques

8.0 Basic Music Theory
   8.1 Music notes and the staff line
   8.2 Major scales
   8.3 The piano keyboard
   8.4 Notes on the ukulele fretboard
   8.5 Playing scales on the ukulele
   8.6 The written presentation of music for the ukulele

9.0 Rhythm, Timing, and Tempo
   9.1 Whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, etc.
   9.2 The time signature

10.0 Basic Ukulele Chord Families (Keys)
   10.1 The key of C
   10.2 The key of F
   10.3 The key of G
   10.4 The key of D
   10.5 The key of A
   10.6 The key of E
11.0 Playing Chords and Singing
   11.1 Types of music genre common to the ukulele

12.0 Resources for Further Study

8. **Instructional Goals**
   This course will introduce students to:

   1.0 The history and development of the ukulele;
   2.0 Various styles of ukulele;
   3.0 Parts of the ukulele;
   4.0 Care and maintenance of the ukulele;
   5.0 Proper tuning of the ukulele;
   6.0 Proper techniques for holding and strumming the ukulele;
   7.0 Various ukulele playing styles;
   8.0 Basic music theory;
   9.0 Rhythm, timing and tempo;
   10.0 Basic ukulele chord families;
   11.0 Playing chords and singing songs; and
   12.0 Resources for further study.

9. **Student Learning Outcomes**
   Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

   1.0 Describe the history and development of the ukulele;
   2.0 Identify the parts and the various styles and sizes of the ukulele;
   3.0 Demonstrate proper care and maintenance of the ukulele;
   4.0 Demonstrate proper tuning of the ukulele;
5.0 Describe music notes, scales and chord families;

6.0 Read song sheets written for the ukulele;

7.0 Demonstrate proficiency in playing a variety of ukulele chords;

8.0 Demonstrate correct rhythm and timing on the ukulele;

9.0 Strum and sing a minimum of fifteen songs; and

10.0 Demonstrate proficiency in accessing various resources for further study.

10. **Assessment Measures**
Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1.0 Class attendance and participation;

2.0 Homework assignments;

3.0 In class exercises;

4.0 Quizzes and examinations; and

5.0 Individual and group projects.