

**Northern Marianas College**  
**CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST**

**Effective Semester / Session:** Spring 2012

**Type of Action:**

- New
- 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.

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Lawrence Lee

10/24/11

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Proposer

Date

  
Thomas Sharts

10/24/11

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Department Chair

Date

  
Barbara Merfalen

10-24-11

ACTING DEAN

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Dean of Academic Programs and Services

Date

# Northern Marianas College

## Course Guide

Course: MU 109 Basic Ukulele

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**

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(Offered Fall and Spring)

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### **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.

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### 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

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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;

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- 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.