

Intro To Guitar - Bio and Class Summary



BIO

Hello! My name is Pastor David Ortega. I have had the pleasure of serving at Vine for 2 years as a teacher and have enjoyed it immensely.

My family moved to Gilroy in 2016. My wife, Andrea, and I have three children, one in 7th grade, one in 9th, and one in 12th grade. We have served on staff at The Foothills Church in Gilroy since arriving.

I have been a musician all my life. I grew up singing in school choirs, played alto saxophone for three years in band, and began playing guitar at age 15. I began playing piano/keyboard when I was 17 and drums since I was 21. I have led worship in several churches for about twenty-five years. I have also led worship at youth camps, played in bands for a few church conferences as well as in some local gigs both solo and with additional musicians.

SHORT CLASS SUMMARY

This is an introduction class on playing guitar. The **objective** at the end of the year is:

- Each student will be able to demonstrate general facility with:
 - Major and minor scales
 - Reading and playing open and bar chords
 - Strum patterns (4/4 and 6/8 time signatures)
 - Finger picking
 - Left/Right hand coordination
 - Hammer-ons
 - Basic chord theory
- Students should also be able to demonstrate:
 - A basic understanding of the Nashville Numbering System
 - Be able to describe how different chords relate to each other, for example:
 - What is the *relative minor* to the **C-major** chord?
 - If **D-major** is the root chord, what is the IV chord?

Even for an introductory course, we will be able to cover each of these concepts.

GRADING

This is a pass/fail class, so students will be graded on their engagement and participation. Please:

- Show up
- Be on time
- Play diligently in class
- Practice diligently at home

I recommend **20 minutes** of practice a day

CLASS MATERIALS

- Guitar
- Guitar strap
- Tuner – [this one](#) is my favorite
- Capo – something like [this](#) works great
 - *Note: a capo is not a “cheat” – a lot of guitar songs depending on voicings that can sometimes be better achieved with a capo*

CLASS BOOK

[The First 100 Guitar Exercises for Beginners](#) by Joseph Alexander

- Please advise if there is any financial burden purchasing this book. I will utilize it mainly for home practice to improve dexterity. The book is not necessary to pass the class, but would be very helpful for the student.