

PSYC56

The Psychology of Music

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Class Times and Locations: *Thursday, 11:00 – 1:00 PM, H-310*

Welcome to the website for PSYC56, **The Psychology of Music**. This is the place you should go for information concerning this class, including announcements, class assignments, and so on. Below are some of the options you can choose to get some information:



Class Syllabus

Below is an APPROXIMATE outline of the topics for each, as well as when assignments are due. To see the readings for that week, simply click on the topic. For your convenience, I have also created a PDF file () containing this syllabus (see below). To open and print this file you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer. This program is free of charge, and can be downloaded by following the link above. Remember, though, that you will need to install this program BEFORE trying to open the syllabus.

Syllabus

Week of	Topic(s)	As
Jan. 7	<u>Introduction to class</u> <u>Traditions in the psychology of music</u>	
Jan. 14	<u>Basic dimensions of sound: Pitch, loudness, and timbre</u>	
Jan. 21	<u>Melodic organization</u>	
Jan. 28	<u>Scales & tonality</u>	
Feb. 4	<u>Musical key-finding</u>	Assignme
Feb. 11 Feb. 18	Midterm Exam (35%) Reading Week	
Feb. 25	<u>Emotion, meaning, and expectancy</u>	
Mar. 4	<u>Time, rhythm, and meter</u>	
Mar. 11	<u>Music performance</u>	Assignme
Mar. 18	<u>Neurological aspects of music perception and performance</u>	
Mar. 25	<u>Musical development</u>	
Apr. 1	<u>The social psychology of music</u>	Assignme



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[Class Information](#)



Class Information

Course Description:

This course studies the perceptual and cognitive processing involved in the psychology of music. The general idea is to acquaint students with the basic concepts and issues involved in the understanding of musical passages. The focus of this course is on the perception and cognition of musical materials, taking as its starting point the music listener as a gatherer and interpreter of information from the environment. Topics will include aspects such as the basic physical and psychological properties of sound, pitch perception and melodic organization, the perception of rhythm and time, musical correlates of psychological structure, musical performance, emotion and meaning in music, musical development, and so on.

Readings:

Unfortunately, there is not a single source that contains all of the readings necessary for this course. Accordingly, each week will consist of a series of different readings of varying length, drawn from different sources, that are related to the topic to be covered. All of these readings will be on short-term reserve in the library.

Course Requirements and Grading:

There will be two exams in this course – a midterm and a final. The midterm will cover material from the first half of the course, and will take place during class. The final will cover material from the second half, and will be scheduled during finals week. Each of these exams will be worth 35% of your final grade. In addition to these exams there will be three take-home assignments, each worth between 10% of your grade. These assignments are intended to insure that you are understanding the reading; if you are keeping up with the class material, there will be no problem in getting full marks on these assignments.



Up



Class Information



Class Syllabus