

## Music Cognition

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Office Hours: *Tuesday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM*

Course Web Site: <http://www.scar.utoronto.ca/~marksch/psyc56/c56-index.htm>

Teaching Assistant: *Dominuge Vuvan*

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Office Hours:

Class Times and Locations: *Monday, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM, HW 214*

### 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. My hope is to have these readings available via download PDF files, which can be accessed via the course syllabus website.

### 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 four take-home assignments, each worth between 7.5% of your grade. These assignments are intended to insure that you understand the reading; if you are keeping up with the class material, there will be no problem in getting full marks on these assignments.

## Dates of Topics and Assignments

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
January 8	Introduction to class, Traditions in music psychology, the evolution of music	
January 15	Basic dimensions of sound: Pitch, loudness, and timbre	
January 22	Scales and tonality	
January 29	Musical key-finding	Assignment # 1 due
February 5	Melodic organization	
February 12	Midterm Exam (35%)	
February 19	Reading Week	
February 26	Musical expectancy	
March 5	Time, rhythm, and meter	Assignment # 2 due
March 12	Music performance	
March 19	Musical aesthetics and emotion	Assignment # 3 due
March 26	Neurological aspects of music perception and performance	
April 2	Musical development	Assignment # 4 due