

Music Cognition

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Teaching Assistant: *Ainsley Lawson*

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Office Hours: *Wednesday, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, or by appointment*

Class Times and Locations: *Monday, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, BV264*

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:

There is no single textbook for the course; instead, we will use an assortment of readings for each week. These readings vary in their difficulty and depth of sophistication. Some will be taken from sources intended for an undergraduate audience, whereas others will be drawn from professional level research sources such as published journal articles and book chapters. All readings will be available for download from the “Readings” page on the class 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.

PSYC56H3 S

Fall 2012

Dates of Topics and Assignments

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week 1	Introduction to class Traditions in music psychology	T.B.A	
Week 2	The evolution of music	T.B.A	
Week 3	Basic dimensions of sound: Pitch, loudness, and timbre	T.B.A	
Week 4	Scales and tonality	T.B.A	Assgn 1 Due
Week 5	Musical key-finding	T.B.A	
Week 6	Melodic organization	T.B.A	Assgn 2 Due
Week 7	Musical expectancy	T.B.A	
Week 8	Time, rhythm, and meter	T.B.A	
Week 9	Music performance	T.B.A	Assgn 3 Due
Week 10	Musical aesthetics and emotion	T.B.A	
Week 11	Neurological aspects of music perception and performance	T.B.A	Assgn 4 Due
Week 12	Musical development	T.B.A	