

## **PSY 410/510: The Psychology of Music**

**Spring 2006**

**CRN:** PSY 410: 37272

PSY 510: 38147

**This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.**

Psychology majors: this course counts for major elective credit only.

**Overview**                      What are the neural correlates of our perception of tonality, harmony, melody, and rhythm? How do these relate to acoustics, auditory neurobiology, grouping mechanisms, brain damage, cortical plasticity, and language?

**Lectures**                      Monday & Wednesday 10:00–11:20 PM; 242 Gerlinger Hall  
Lecture notes should be available on Blackboard before the lecture.

**Instructor**                      Mike Wehr  
wehr@uoregon.edu  
office hours: Monday 2:00-3:00 PM at Espresso Roma (825 13<sup>th</sup> Ave.)  
or by appointment.

**Teaching Assistants**                      Colleen Tuffy (tentative)  
ctuffy@darkwing.uoregon.edu  
Office hours: TBA

**Textbook**                      none

**Readings**                      All course readings will be available on Blackboard.  
<https://blackboard.uoregon.edu>  
You should also check Blackboard frequently for announcements, course materials, grades, etc.

**Grading**

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Paper	25%
Questions	25%
	100%

## **Exams**

The midterm will be a take-home exam, and will be handed out after class on Monday, May 1, and due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, May 3. The final will be a take-home exam, will cover the material from the entire course, and will be handed out after the last class on Wednesday, June 7, and due by noon on Friday, June 9.

## **Paper**

The paper should be 10-20 pages, double spaced, and is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. The topic can be anything related to the course. A number of example topics will be available on blackboard, but regardless of which topic you choose, you must submit the topic for approval by Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Questions**

You must do the assigned reading *before* each lecture. The day before each lecture, after you've completed the reading, you will need to log onto blackboard and answer a few short questions. These are required; they are due by 8 p.m. the night before each lecture, and count for 25% of your final grade in the course. Usually the first question or two will help make sure you understood the important points from the readings. More importantly, you will have a chance to share any aspects of the readings that you did *not* understand, were confused by, or had any other kind of trouble with. Your responses about what you *didn't* understand (and you are surely not alone) will help guide the next day's lecture.

## **Schedule (Tentative)**

Monday, April 3

Neurology: Amusia and brain damage

Wednesday, April 5

Is music an evolutionary adaptation?

Monday, April 10

Acoustics: the physics of sound

Guest lecture by Tim Jenkins

Wednesday, April 12

Music Theory

Monday, April 17

Intervals, scales, and tuning

Wednesday, April 19

Neurobiology of the auditory system

Monday, April 24  
Universals in temporal processing

Wednesday, April 26  
Grouping mechanisms in music 1

Monday, May 1  
**Pick up take home midterm**  
Grouping mechanisms in music 2

Wednesday, May 3  
**Midterm due at start of class**  
The neurobiology of harmony perception

Monday, May 8  
Neural specializations for tonal processing

Wednesday, May 10  
Melody

Monday, May 15  
Cortical plasticity and musicians

Wednesday, May 17  
Comparison of music and language

Monday, May 22  
**Paper topics due**  
The zebra finch song system

Wednesday, May 24  
Music perception and performance in animals

Monday, May 29 memorial day  
Musical Imagery

Wednesday, May 31  
**Papers due**  
TBA

Monday, June 5  
Review for Final

Wednesday, June 7

Last class

TBA

**Pick up take home final**

Friday, June 9

**Final due by noon**