

PSY 410/510: The Psychology of Music
Winter 2008

CRN: PSY 410: 24515

PSY 510: 24532

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?
Objectives	To develop the tools and knowledge to ask meaningful questions about music and the brain, how to frame these questions, and how one might attempt to answer them.
Lectures	Tuesday & Thursday 12:00–13:20 PM; 146 Straub Hall Lecture notes should be available on Blackboard before the lecture.
Instructor	Mike Wehr wehr@uoregon.edu office hours: Monday 10:00-11:00 AM in 206 Huestis or by appointment.
Teaching Assistants	Liz Condradt econradt@uoregon.edu Office hours: Fridays 11:00-Noon in 302 Straub Phone: 346-5534
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, etc.
Discussion Board	Can be used to interact with instructor and other students, and is available on Blackboard. You may post anonymously.

Plagiarism Is taken very seriously and is grounds for failure or expulsion. You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it in your work. Excellent guides on plagiarism can be found at <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/> and <http://www.plagiarism.org>. You are required to submit the term paper for this course using Blackboard's anti-plagiarism software plugin ("SafeAssign").

Cell Phones If it rings in class, or if you're talking on it, it's mine.

Grading

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Paper	25%
Quizzes	25%
	100%

Exams

The midterm will be a take-home exam, and will be available on Blackboard after class on Tuesday, February 5, and due at the beginning of class on Thursday, February 7. The final will be a take-home exam, will cover the material from the entire course, and will be available on Blackboard after the last class on Thursday, March 13, and due by noon on Monday, March 17.

Paper/Project

The paper or project write-up should be roughly 8-10 pages, double spaced, and is due at the beginning of class on Thursday, March 6th (submit through Assignments on Blackboard). The topic can be anything related to the course. A number of example topics are available in Course Information on Blackboard, but regardless of which topic you choose, you must submit the topic for approval by Tuesday, February 20st (submit your topic as part of the online quiz on Blackboard).

Format for the term paper:

- The filename should include your last name, for example: wehr-psy410-term paper.doc
- Include page numbers.
- Include a header with your name and a shortened title (~25 words or less).
- Use .doc or .pdf

Quizzes

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 in an online quiz format. These are required; they are due by midnight 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 often 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 (subject to change: please be sure to download the Calendar in the Course Information section of Blackboard for the most up-to-date schedule)

1. Tuesday, January 8

Music and the Brain

No reading

2. Thursday, January 10

Musical Space

Reading: Hall, "Musical Acoustics", Ch 1-2

3. Tuesday, January 15

Perception of Tones

Reading: Rasch & Plomp, "The Perception of Musical Tones," p. 89-102

4. Thursday, January 17

Consonance and Dissonance 1

Reading: Rasch & Plomp, "The Perception of Musical Tones," p. 102-109

5. Tuesday, January 22

Consonance and Dissonance 2

Reading: Thompson, "Music of the Hemispheres"

6. Thursday, January 24

Tonality

Reading: Machlis & Forney, "The Organization of Musical Sounds"

7. Tuesday, January 29

Neurobiology of the auditory system 1

Reading: Weinberger, "Music and the Auditory System"

8. Thursday, January 31

Neurobiology of the auditory system 2

No reading

9. Tuesday, February 5

Neurobiology of the auditory system 3

No reading

Midterm becomes available

10. Thursday, February 7

Rhythm 1

No reading

Midterm due at noon

11. Tuesday, February 12

Rhythm 2

Reading: Drake, "Temporal Organization of Complex Auditory Sequences"

12. Thursday, February 14

Grouping mechanisms in music 1

Reading: Deutsch, "Grouping Mechanisms in Music"

13. Tuesday, February 19

No class

14. Thursday, February 21

Grouping mechanisms in music 2

No Reading

Paper topics due in quiz February 20th

15. Tuesday, February 26

Neural specializations for tonal processing

Reading: Zatorre, "Neural specializations for tonal processing"

16. Thursday, February 28

The topography of tonality

Reading: Janata, "The cortical topography of tonal structures underlying Western music"

17. Tuesday, March 4

Musical Imagery

Reading: Halpern, "Cerebral substrates of Musical Imagery"

18. Thursday, March 6

Songbirds

Reading: Brenowitz, "An Introduction to Birdsong and the Avian Song System"

Papers due at noon (in Assignments on Blackboard)

19. Tuesday, March 11

Musical Hallucinations

Reading: Zimmer, "Neuron network goes awry, and brain becomes an iPod"

19. Thursday, March 13

Last class

Review for Final

Final exam becomes available

Monday, March 17

Final due by 5 p.m.