



Department of Psychology

Psychology 503.92 (L01) – Psychology and Music

Fall Session 2008

Instructor:	Dr. Kimberley Vaughan	Lecture Location:	A 253
Phone:	220-2242 (U of C office) or 637-3939 (my home office)	Lecture Days/Time:	M/W/F 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.
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Office Hours:	By appointment		

Course Description and Goals

This course will examine how humans perceive and process music. How does the brain tell the difference between music and noise? Do our brains react differently to music we like versus music we don't like? How is music, like language, innate and also universal? These are a few of the issues we will explore in this course.

Required Text

Levitin, D.J. (2007). *This is your Brain on Music*. Plume (published by Penguin Group). This text provides important background reading for the topics covered in this course. It is available at the University Bookstore.

Journal Article Readings

Journal articles (readings above and beyond the textbook) will be posted on blackboard. There will be 11 journal articles in total (two shorter ones for chapter 3). Note that we will cover one, sometimes two, journal articles per week, in addition to the relevant chapters in the textbook. This course is a seminar course and, as such, students are expected to be self-regulated and to work as a team that is actively engaged in the pursuit of knowledge. Students are not only expected to engage in close readings of the assigned material, but also to engage in broader reading on their own in order to help enrich class discussions. Students are also expected to engage in thoughtful and critical written and oral analyses of our discussions, students' own experiences, and readings. In preparation for each class (not including the first class on September 8th), students articulate a question, based upon each assigned journal article, and read more broadly beyond that particular reading (i.e., 1-2 journal articles/chapters per assigned reading), to seek an answer to their question about the assigned reading. Class discussion will focus on the textbook, journal articles and the questions evoked by the journal articles that the students have researched. In each class, two students will be selected by the professor to share their questions with the class and what they have discovered through their independent reading.

Evaluation

1. Familiarity with assigned readings (textbook, journal articles) and class participation.

Weight: 10%

2. Classroom Presentation. Topic to be selected by student in consultation with the professor. Students will, in pairs, present on a topic relating to psychology and music. Presentations will be approximately 15-20 minutes in length with an additional 5 minutes for questions from students and professor. The classroom presentations will occur during the last two weeks of class, i.e., **Nov. 24th, 26th, 27th, Dec. 1st, 3rd and 5th**. Further information on the presentations will be provided in class. If you wish, you may base your classroom presentation upon your term paper (see below).

Weight: 30%

3. Two short papers (maximum of 500 words each), written in response to assigned journal articles. A brief summary of the journal article, as well as a critique and ideas for future research is expected. For short paper 1, you may respond to any of journal articles associated with the textbook introduction, or Chapters 1-4 of the textbook. For short paper 2, you may respond to any of the journal articles associated with Chapters 5-9 of the textbook.

Weight: 10% per short paper Due Dates: Oct. 20th; Nov. 21st

4. Term Paper (the paper should be 12-15 double-spaced typed pages (12-point font), not including title page and reference page(s)). Topic to be selected by student in consultation with the professor. Students will write on a topic related to psychology and music.

Weight: 40% Due Date: Friday, December 5th, in class.

Note: I will accept emailed papers (as WORD attachments) in lieu of hard copies, as long as I receive the paper the day before they are due and confirm with you via email that I have received them, can open the document, etc. I would prefer .doc (Microsoft WORD 1997-2003) over .docx (the newest version of WORD). Late assignments will be accepted, but the **penalty for late assignments** will be 10% per day, including weekends.

Grading Scale

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.).

Lecture Schedule

This schedule is a guideline only. Specific lecture topics may vary from time to time.

Date	Topic	Required Reading
Sept. 8 th	Intro to course/ review course outline	none
Sept. 10 th , 12 th	Introduction Reading 1	Introduction in textbook
Sept. 15 th , 17 th	What is music? from Pitch to Timbre	Chapter 1
Sept. 19th	No class; I am away at a conference	
Sept. 22 nd ,	What is music? from Pitch to Timbre	Chapter 1 (cont) Reading 2
Sept. 24 th , 26 th , 29 th	Discerning Rhythm, Loudness and Harmony Reading 3	Chapter 2
Oct. 1 st , 3 rd , 6 th , 8 th ,	Music and the Mind Reading 4	Chapter 3
Oct. 10 th	Anticipation/expectations of music	Chapter 4
Oct. 13th	No class – Thanksgiving Holiday	
Oct. 15 th , 17 th	Anticipation/expectations of music cont. Reading 5	Chapter 4 (cont)
Oct. 20th	Short Paper #1 is due	
Oct. 20 th , 22 nd , 24 th	How we categorize music Reading 6	Chapter 5
Oct. 27 th , 29 th , 31 st	Music and Emotion Reading 7	Chapter 6
Nov. 3 rd , 5 th , 7 th ,	What makes a musician? Reading 8	Chapter 7
Nov. 10th	No class – reading days	
Nov. 12 th , 14 th	Why do we like the music we like? Reading 9	Chapter 8
Nov. 17 th , 19 th	The music instinct Reading 10	Chapter 9

Nov. 21st	Short paper #2 is due	
Nov. 21 st	The music instinct (cont)	Chapter 9 (cont)
Nov. 24 th , 26 th , 28 th	Class presentations	
Dec. 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th	Class presentations	

University of Calgary Core Competencies

- Critical and creative thinking
- Analysis of problems
- Effective oral and written communication
- Gathering and organizing information
- Insight and intuition in generating knowledge

With the following course characteristics:

- Considerable class discussion; students are prompted to think critically about course material
- Students are required to do an oral presentation to the class which will give them experience in public speaking. As the presentation is to be done in pairs, students will gain experience in teamwork.
- Students will be required to write two short papers and a term paper, which will help them further develop their writing skills.

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next fifteen days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same.

If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within fifteen days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done

expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and **have not** registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Absence From A Test

Make-up exams are NOT an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). You must contact the instructor before the scheduled examination or you will have forfeited any right to make up the exam. At the instructor's discretion, a make-up exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup exam is written within two (2) weeks of the missed exam.

A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test for health reasons. The student will be required to pay any cost associated with the Physician Counselor Statement.

Course Credits for Research Participation

Students in most psychology courses are eligible to participate in Departmentally approved research and earn credits toward their final grades. A maximum of two credits (2%) per course, including this course, may be applied to an individual's final grade. Students can create an account and access the Research Participation System website at <http://ucalgary.sona-systems.com>. **The last day to participate in research is December 4th, 2008.**

Student Organizations

Psychology students may wish to join the Psychology Undergraduate Students' Association (PSYCHS). They are located in the Administration building, room 170 or may be contacted at 220-5567.

Student Union VP Academic: Phone: 220-3911 suypaca@ucalgary.ca
Student Union Faculty Rep.: Phone: 220-3913 socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and **still receive a fee refund** is **September 19th, 2008**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 5th, 2008**.