

COURSE SYLLABUS

MUS 239.01

Psychology of Music

3 Credit Hours

Spring 2008

Location: Music Building, Room 219

Time: 11:00 am – 12:20 pm

Instructor: Ellary Draper

Office: Music Building, Studio 39 (Basement)

Phone: 936-294-3261

E-mail: ead011@shsu.edu

Office Hours: to be determined upon the scheduling of practicum, also by appointment

Course Description

A study of the effects of music on the mind. Topics include musical acoustics, music perception, and experimental research in music.

Prerequisite: None

Methods of instruction will include lecture, group discussion, experiential approaches, review of written material/texts, exams, and research reviews

Course Objectives

- I. To stimulate thinking concerning the influence of sound/music on human behavior and promote basic knowledge of the psychological and physiological aspects of musical behavior and experience
- II. To review the bodies of literature pertinent to the topic areas associated with a study of the psychology of music
- III. To stimulate thinking regarding brain functioning as related to music behavior(s)
- IV. To explore philosophical, psychological, physiological, and sociological bases for the use of music as therapy

Textbooks

Levitin, D.J. (2006). *This is Your Brain on Music: The Science of a Human Obsession*. New York: Dutton Publishing Company.

Wagner, M.J. (1994). *Introductory Musical Acoustics (3rd Edition)*, Raleigh: Contemporary Publishing Company.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain course materials by the second class day.

Exceptions regarding due dates will NOT be granted to students who fail to purchase textbooks on time.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is expected of all students. Assignments due during one's absence should be submitted in advance when possible or as soon after the student's return as is feasible. Follow professional job procedures.

NOTE: All absences must be documented prior to class (when feasible by means of a phone call to the professor. Leave a message on voice mail, if necessary. Please understand that this documentation does not by any means guarantee an excused absence, but without such notification, a written doctor's notice, or a funeral notice, all absences will be considered unexcused. Appointments for missed exams must be made with the professor within one week following administration of the scheduled exam. Consideration for make-up exams will be given on the basis of documentation for an excused absence. Excessive absences, tardiness, or leaving early will adversely affect the student's grade. Students will be allowed 3 class absences without penalty. Any unexcused absences over 3 classes will result in final grade reductions of two percentage points per absence.

Assignments

- I. Complete readings as assigned. See academic calendar.
- II. Participate in class discussions and activities.
- III. Summarize article as assigned.
- IV. Conduct and provide a written and verbal report of a simple music experiment as assigned.
- V. Complete exams.
- VI. Music Therapy Students: If you attend the American Music Therapy Association Southwestern Regional Conference in El Paso you must provide a short verbal report to the class regarding your experiences.

Grading Plan

All assignments are due at class time of the due date indicated on the Academic Calendar. Assignments handed in after class on the due date are considered one academic day late. A minimum of ten (10) percent will be deducted for each academic day (Monday – Friday) late. Your total number of points will determine your final grade.

No extra credit will be given. Students who cannot complete course requirements will receive a grade of F. Exceptions may be granted and incomplete (X) grades given with proper documentation in the case of severe health emergencies or death in the immediate family. Grades will be posted using the university system by the date specified in the university class schedule. Students may review or discuss grades with the instructor at any time.

Assignment

Possible Points

Actual Points

Exams	50
Music Experiment	15
Article summary	10
Final Exam	25
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Total	100

Grading Scale

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = Below 60

University Policies

Students with Disabilities

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. In order to receive such accommodations, students with disabilities must register with the SHSU Counseling Center and request help from the instructor. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

Writing Assistance

The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Farrington 111, is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment in any subject. You can drop by to work with a tutor or call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examinations or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to the instructor a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester. The instructor will notify the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Academic Honesty

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.