

Brief Course Outline

Course Title:	Music Cognition	
Course Number and Section:	PSYCHOL	3131F 550
Instructor Name(s):	Stephen Van Hedger	
Instructor Email(s):	svanhedg@uwo.ca	

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Music, like language, is a universal phenomenon, found in every known culture. Yet, the scientific study of music is still in its infancy. While some prominent cognitive scientists have dismissed music as epiphenomenal, having no real consequence for how the human mind has evolved, this does not mean that music – as a complex, naturalistic system – cannot teach us about fundamental aspects of cognition. Indeed, recent research in the field of music psychology has contributed to our basic understanding of how we perceive and understand the world, informing broad topics such as skill acquisition, learning, memory, emotion, and experience-dependent plasticity (to name a few). Throughout this course, we will examine how the scientific study of the musical mind is important for understanding fundamental psychological processes.

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop an appreciation of both empirical and theoretical work in music cognition
- Situate any weekly topic in a larger psychological context, as well as understand the extent to which music offers a unique window into understanding a specific psychological construct
- Refine critical thinking skills and evaluation of psychological experiments, arguments, and practices
- Gain expertise in reading, understanding, and critically evaluating journal articles
- Practice knowledge mobilization and science communication skills

Textbooks and Course Materials:

There are no required textbooks for this course. The readings for the course primarily take the form of peer-reviewed journal articles and each reading will be posted to OWL.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Discussion Leader	One time during the course (assigned first week)	15

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Principal Discussant	One time during the course (assigned first week)	15
Start-of-Term Reflection	10/2/2024	10
End-of-Term Reflection	12/4/2024	10
Knowledge Mobilization (Instagram Post) Assignment	11/11/2024	15
Annotated Bibliography Assignment	11/27/2024	20
Participation Assessment	12/4/2024	15

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Wednesday, August 7, 2024