COURSE OUTLINE Fall 2013
PSYCH3MA3 Neuroscience of Music Cognition

Instructor:  Dr. Laurel Trainor  Psychology Building 305
LJT@mcmaster.ca  905-525-9140 x23007

Course TA:  Jessica Gillard
gillarj@mcmaster.ca  905-525-9140 x 27021

Location:  BSB 121
Time:  Wednesdays 9:30–11:20am; Fridays 9:30-10:20pm

Office hours: By appointment

Course Objectives. In this course we will examine perceptual, cognitive, and socioemotional aspects of music from a neuroscientific point of view. The roles of evolution, biology, innate factors, and experience in human musical activity and ability will be considered. The class will be run as a seminar, and students are expected to read the assigned papers before class and to participate in class discussions. Students will work in groups, do presentations in class, read primary source materials, and learn to think critically.

Course Schedule (subject to revision)

Readings are available for download from the psychology web pages (www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/undergraduate.html). Click on Level 3 PSYCH courses, then 3MA3. The login name is 3ma3 and the password is trainor.

Sept 7  Evolutionary theories of music
1. Huron, 2001a

Sept 12, 14  Is music an evolutionary adaptation?
2. McDermott & Hauser, 2005
3. Lewis, 2002
Tonal structure
5. Zatorre, 2001

Sept 19, 21   Melody and harmony
6. Huron, 2001b
7. Trainor et al., 2002*
8. Koelsch, 2002*
Sept 26, 28  
*Rhythm and movement*
10. Grahn & Brett, 2007*  
11. Schacter et al., 2009*

Oct 3, 5  
*Entrainment, Parkinson’s disease and social interaction*
12. Grahn & Brett, 2009*  
13. McIntosh et al., 1997*  
14. Fujioka et al., 2012*  
15. Wiltermuth & Heath, 2009*  
16. Hove & Risen 2009*

Oct 10, 12  
*Amusia*
17. Loui, Alsop & Schlaug, 2009*  
18. Peretz et al., 2009*  
19. Philips-Silver et al., 2011*  

*Melodic intonation therapy*
20. Norton et al., 2009

Oct 17, 19  
*Cortical plasticity, learning, and effects of musical experience*
21. Elbert et al., 1995*  
22. Pantev et al., 2001*  
23. Jentschke & Koelsch, 2009*  
24. Trainor et al., 2012*

Oct 24,  
*Expectation & meaning*
25. Huron, Chapter 1, 2006  

Oct 26  
*Guest lecture*

Oct 31, Nov 2  
*Emotional responses music*
27. Salimpoor et al., 2011*

*Experiencing & performing music*
28. Limb & Braun, 2008*  
29. Sacks, Chapter 6, 2007

Nov 7, 9, 14, 16  
No class, work on presentations

Nov 21, 23, 28  
Presentations

Nov 30  
Summary and give out take home exam
Academic Dishonesty Policy Reminder

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Evaluation
Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

20% Attendance and participation. Note that for high marks, comments and questions must make an intellectual contribution.

16% Critiques. Due dates depend on which ones you are assigned.

4% Progress Report on Grant Proposal. Due October 26th

15% Written Grant Proposal. Due the class before your oral presentation.

15% Oral Presentation of Grant Proposal.

10% Peer Evaluation of Grant Proposal. Due one week after the presentation you are evaluating.

20% Final Take Home Exam

McMaster's Grading Scale

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The instructor reserves the right to adjust the final marks up or down, on an individual basis, in the light of special circumstances and/or the individual's overall performance in the course.

A note on dates and deadlines: The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with an explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email regularly during the term and to note any changes.

A note on class attendance: Because much of this class is based on discussion and presentations, is very hard to do well unless you attend all classes.