

**Graduate Course PSYCH741
Music, Language and the Brain
Winter, 2009**

Instructor: Laurel Trainor
ljt@mcmaster.ca

Text: Patel, A.D. (2008). Music, language, and the Brain. Oxford: Oxford U. Press.

Time & Place: Thursday 12:00-2:00, Room 204

Evaluation

30%	Class discussion
15%	Weekly questions
30%	Research proposal
25%	Presentation of research proposal

Tentative Schedule

January 8: Organizational meeting: Chapter 1 Introduction

January 15: Class discussion: Chapter 2 Sound Elements

January 22: Class discussion: Chapter 3 Rhythm

January 29: Class discussion Chapter 4: Melody
NOTE ROOM CHANGE: Room 216

February 5: Class discussion: Chapter 5 Syntax

February 12: Class discussion: Chapter 6 Meaning

February 19: Reading week, no class

February 26: Class discussion: Chapter 7 Evolution

March 5: No Class (extra time for preparation of research proposals)

March 12: Presentations of research proposals

March 19: Presentations of research proposals

March 26: Presentations of research proposals

Class Discussion

Each week one or two students will lead the discussion of the chapter. Discussions are informal, but should consist of a brief overview of:

1. The main questions posed in the chapter.
2. The main evidence.
3. Discussion with the class of how well the evidence supports answers to the questions.

Weekly Questions

Each week at the beginning of class you are to hand in two questions related to the chapter for that week that are not yet answered. Think of questions that (1) you find interesting and (2) could be answered experimentally. Just write one or two sentences per question.

Research Proposal and Presentation of Research Proposal

Take one of the questions from the set of weekly questions you turned in. Write a two or three page introduction as to why it is an interesting or important question (i.e., the significance of the question), with a brief overview about what is known to date. Then present the experimental design for a study to answer the question, outlining dependent and independent variables, subject samples, control groups if any, etc. End with what you would conclude given various possible outcomes. The whole proposal should be around six pages and certainly no more than 8 pages (excluding references and possible figures or graphs).