Spring 2-1-2006

**MUS 521.01: Psychology of Music**

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The University of Montana  
Department of Music  
M 521 Psychology of Music (2 credits)  
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Spring 2006  
SYLLABUS  
Course Description

"In music there is a physical reality that is measurable and quantifiable, but how that reality is perceived is a very personal matter."  
(Robert A. Cutietta, p. 50, Music Educators Journal, May 1993)

Text:  
Psychological Foundations of Musical Behavior  
Authors: R. Radocy and J. Boyle  
Publisher: Charles C. Thomas  
Date: 4rd Edition, 2003

Class meeting times: Tuesday, 3:10 – 4:00 PM and Thursday, 12:10 – 1:00

Objectives of the Course:  
1. to define the term "psychology of music"  
2. to examine the different ways of knowing and perceiving involved in our relationships with music  
3. to read and discuss current literature relating to music and human behavior  
4. to read and discuss the contributions of respected authorities in this field  
5. to write, in scholarly form, about the many aspects of this topic

Assignments:  
This course has four concentrations: reading about music, listening to music, writing about music and presenting about music. One assignment is usually due each Tuesday. Class presentations are based on the weekly assignments. Specific instructions for each assignment will be given each week.

Attendance and Grading:  
Grades will be based on the quality of scholarly work presented, as well as on participation and attendance. All projects and assignments will be discussed and demonstrated at length in class. Regular attendance and punctuality is required. Any absences will result in a significant disruption of the flow of the course for the particular student and for the class as a whole. Questionable absences may result in a lowered semester grade.

Special Needs:  
Students with disabilities or special needs should see the instructor.

Student Conduct Code:  
All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321.
Week 1: January 23-27
Topic: Introduction to a psychological approach to human behavior with music
Readings for next week: p. 3-39 (Chapter 1 and 2)
Assignment #1* for next Tuesday: From the reading, type a list of the main contributions (7-10) of Merriam, Kaplan and Gaston, as well as a paragraph on what you believe is the most logical theory of the origin of music. Be prepared to discuss your findings.

Week 2: January 30-Feb. 3
Topic: Music, A Phenomenon of People, Society and Culture
Readings: p. 3-39 (Chapter 1-2)
Assignment #2: Bring 2 short examples of music which serves functions (due next Tues)

Week 3: February 6-10
Topic: Functional Applications of Music
Readings: p. 40-92 (Chapter 3)
Assignment #3*: Prepare a 5-10 minute “musical test” which relates to the reading (due next Tues)

Week 4: February 13-17
Topic: Psychoacoustical Functions
Readings: p. 93-115 (first part of Chapter 4)
Assignment #4: Present brief excerpts of what you perceive to be two of the most interesting rhythmic examples in the entire realm of musics; explain why you chose these examples (due next Tues)

Week 5: February 20-24 (Monday, Feb. 20: Presidents' Day - University Holiday)
Topic: Rhythmic Foundations, Part 1
Readings: p. 143-166 (first part of Chapter 5)
Assignment #5*: From information gleaned in your reading, present a 1-2 page paper in which you name and discuss the contributions of 5 of the most creative thinkers (in your opinion) regarding rhythm. (due next Tues)

Week 6: February 27-March 3
Topic: Rhythmic Foundations, Part 2
Readings: p. 166-204 (second part of Chapter 5)
Assignment #6: (due next Tuesday) 1) type a paragraph of a workable explanation of melody in world musics; 2) bring a brief excerpt example of what you consider to be one of the most important melodies in the western classical music tradition (due next Tues)

Week 7: March 6-10
Topic: Melodic and Harmonic Functions, Part 1
Readings: p. 205-233 (first part of Chapter 6)
Assignment #7*: 1) type a paragraph of a workable explanation of harmony in world musics; 2) Conduct an informal poll of at least 5 randomly picked non-music majors or minors. Type the list of answers to the question: “What is your favorite traditional tune from your cultural heritage?” (due next Tues)
Week 8: March 13-17
Topic: Melodic and Harmonic Functions, Part 2
Readings: p. 233-272 (second part of Chapter 6)
Assignment # 8*: Selected Readings on Music Therapy (at be read by next Tuesday)
Preliminary Discussion of the Final Assignment # 13 (see Week 14)

Week 9: March 20-24 (Accessible Music Education Symposium Week)
Required Attendance: Concert by the VSA Choir in the Recital Hall during Thursday’s regular recital hour 2:10-3:00, March 23.
Topic: Therapeutic Uses of Music
Assignment # 9: type a 1-page paper describing results of an informal survey on the ways at least 2 different performers overcome performance anxiety - refer to reading for Week 11. - due Tues, April 4

Week 10: March 27-31 – NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 11: April 3-7
Topic: Foundations of Performance, Improvisation and Composition
Readings: p. 272-311 (Chapter 7)
Assignment # 10*: Choose one musical selection which truly affects you aesthetically and identify 7-10 reasons for this. (due next Tues)

Week 12: April 10-14
Topic: Affective Behaviors and Music
Readings: p. 312-361 (Chapter 8)
Assignment # 11*: Create a preference test for the class: choose excerpts from 4 selections for the class to evaluate in terms of their preference (due next Tues).

Week 13: April 17-21
Topic: Musical Preferences
Readings: p. 362-383 (Chapter 9)
Assignment # 12: Be prepared to discuss the musicality in your own family’s musical heritage: Do you have information about the musical abilities of grandparents, great grandparents, etc.? What is the musical background of individual members of your family? Who is musical? Why? Why not? How do you know? (due next Tues)

Week 14: April 24-28
Topic: Musical Ability and Learning
Readings: p. 384-429 (Chapter 10)
Final Assignment # 13* due at the time of the final exam: prepare a 4000 (minimum) word scholarly paper with bibliography (minimum of 10 sources) in APA writing style on a topic of interest to you within the realm of the psychology of music; detailed instructions will be given in class. Prepare a 10 minute report of your paper for a presentation to your class preceeding the Final Exam.

Week 15: May 1-5 – Last week of classes
Topic: Future Research Directions
Readings: 430-433 (Chapter 11)

Week 16: May 8-12 – FINAL EXAM WEEK (reports and one hour Final Exam)

* denotes written aspect of the assignment is to be submitted to the instructor