

**Syllabus - Music Psychology**

## **Syllabus and Course Timeline RBA Today – “Music Psychology” Fall, 2015**

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course is a multidisciplinary upper-division course which includes a survey of the rapidly growing field of music psychology. This review will include an exploration of various contemporary issues in the field, research methodologies and landmark studies. Preparation for the course will involve the completion of a series of readings that will be assigned each week as well as a review of posted lecture materials.

**GRADING:**

**Weekly Quizzes: 25% collectively**

**Weekly Discussions: 25%**

**Final Project: 50%**

**Weekly Discussion Protocol:**

Every week, the instructor will hold an online discussion session. You are expected to respond to the weekly discussion post (based on readings and lecture materials) *and* to respond to two comments offered by your colleagues in the class. In other words, provide your own comments and respond to two other comments by your colleagues as a minimum requirement for weekly discussions. You can respond beyond the requirement if you wish.

### **Detailed Course Outline**

*Note: The instructor reserves the right to alter the proposed course schedule and syllabus according to class needs.*

## **Week 1: Human Musicality: The Origins of Music**

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**1. Read the following:**

1. Hodges, Donald A. “Human Musicality.” *Handbook of Music Psychology*. IMR Press: The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1996.
2. Storr, Anthony. “Origins and Collective Functions.” *Music and the Mind*. Random House Inc.: New York, 1992.

**2. View the Human Musicality recorded lecture along with accompanying Human Musicality PowerPoint****3. Participate in Discussion 1 (Due by September 1, 2015 )****4. Take Quiz 1 (Due by September 1, 2015)****5. Familiarize yourself with the following website:**

<https://exchange.shepherd.edu/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://www.shepherd.edu/libweb/find/egerm/?Music>

You just need to put in your Shepherd email user name and password to get in to see the different journals .

**6. Begin thinking about final project topic (see guidelines at end of syllabus)**

## Week 2: Basic Physical and Psychoacoustical Processes

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### 1. Read the following:

1. Hodges, Donald A. "Basic Physical and Psychoacoustical Processes." *Handbook of Music Psychology*. IMR Press: The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1996.

### 2. View "Physics" section on the following site: <http://library.thinkquest.org/19537/>

### 3. Participate in Discussion 2 (Due by September 8, 2015)

### 4. Take Quiz 2 (Due by September 8, 2015)

## 5. Continue thinking about final project topic

### Week 3: Hearing and Music Perception

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#### 1. Read the following:

1. Hodges, Donald A. "Hearing and Music Perception." *Handbook of Music Psychology*. IMR Press: The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1996.

#### 2. View "The Ear" section on the following sites: <http://library.thinkquest.org>

[/19537/](#)

**3. Participate in Discussion 3 (Due by September 15, 2015)**

**4. Take Quiz 3 (Due by September 15, 2015)**

**5. Submit prospective final project topic (Due September 15, 2015)**

## **Week 4: The Musical Brain**

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**1. Read the following:**

2. Levitin, Daniel J. "Behind the Curtain: Music and the Mind Machine." *This is your Brain on Music*. Penguin Group Inc.: New York, New York, 2006.

**2. View the Musical Brain recorded lecture along with accompanying Musical**

## **Brain PowerPoint:**

**3. Participate in Discussion 4 (Due September 22, 2015)**

**4. Take Quiz 4 (Due September 22, 2015)**

**5. Submit final project topic (Due September 22, 2015)**

## **Week 5: The Cognitive Organization of Sound**

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**1. Read the following:**

1. Hodges, Donald A. "The Cognitive Organization of Musical Sound." *Handbook of Music Psychology*. IMR Press: The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1996.

## 2. View each part of the following sites:

[http://psychlab1.hanover.edu/Classes/Sensation/Gestalt/index\\_files/frame.htm](http://psychlab1.hanover.edu/Classes/Sensation/Gestalt/index_files/frame.htm)

[http://www.ipsych.com/aud/level\\_2\\_aud.html](http://www.ipsych.com/aud/level_2_aud.html)

## 3. Participate in Discussion 5 (September 29, 2015)

## 4. Take Quiz 5 (Due September 29, 2015)

## 5. Sources for Research Paper (Due September 29, 2015)

## Week 6: Musical Preferences

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## **1. Read the following:**

1. Levitin, Daniel J. "My Favorite Things." *This is your Brain on Music*. Penguin Group Inc.: New York, New York, 2006.

## **2. View the Musical Preferences recorded lecture along with accompanying Musical Preferences PowerPoint**

## **3. Participate in Discussion 6 (Due October 6, 2015)**

## **4. Take Quiz 6 (Due October 6, 2015)**

## Week 7: Music and Emotion

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### 1. Read the following:

1. Meyer, Leonard B. "Theory." *Emotion and Meaning in Music*. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago, 1956.

### 2. View the Music and Emotion recorded lecture along with accompanying Music and Emotion PowerPoint

### 3. Participate in Discussion 7 (Due October 13, 2015)

### 4. Take Quiz 7 (Due October 13, 2015)



## Week 8: Music Psychology in Society

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### 1. Read the following:

1. Hodges, Donald A. "Sociological Perspectives." *Handbook of Music Psychology*. IMR Press: The University of Texas at San Antonio, 1996.

### 2. Participate in Discussion 8 (Due October 20, 2015)

### 3. Take Quiz 8 (Due October 20, 2015)

## Week 9: Amusiacs and Savants

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## 1. View the following:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oZaCrkCxu8&feature=PlayList&p=985102565B0FC3FD&playnext\\_from=PL&playnext=1&index=7](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oZaCrkCxu8&feature=PlayList&p=985102565B0FC3FD&playnext_from=PL&playnext=1&index=7)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_GUPcg25QI&feature=PlayList&p=985102565B0FC3FD&playnext\\_from=PL&index=0&playnext=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_GUPcg25QI&feature=PlayList&p=985102565B0FC3FD&playnext_from=PL&index=0&playnext=1)

## 2. Participate in Discussion 9 (Due October 27, 2015)

## 3. Take Quiz 9 (Due October 27, 2015)

## 4. Work on Final Project

## Week 10: Work on Final Project

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## Final Project (due the last day of classes - December 4, 2015)

### Music Psychology – RBA Today

#### Final Project

100 Points Total – each question below receives 10 points

Choose a paper pertaining in the field of Music Psychology (you may find the paper from any of the databases listed on your syllabus under “week 1”). Using the scientific method as a basis for your critique, answer the following questions about your selected paper. The completed project is to be submitted typed (12-pt. font) and double-spaced. Please use appropriate margins (no more than 1.5 inches). Be sure to document your sources.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Paper Critiqued \_\_\_\_\_

What research question is formulated?

Is adequate background research conducted? Is this research summarized effectively?

Is a hypothesis logically formulated?

Critique the strength of experiment conducted (subjects, controls for variables)

Are the results analyzed effectively?

What conclusion is drawn?

Is it noted if original hypothesis true or false and why?

What caveats are indicated?

What would you do differently if you were conducting the experiment and writing the paper?

Overall writing score