

REVISED SYLLABUS (MARCH 26)**MUSIC, MIND, AND BRAIN (MBB91)****SPRING, 2012****Harvard Mind, Brain, and Behavior Initiative****Instructor:** Peter Cariani**Contacts:** peter.cariani@gmail.com, cariani@mac.com, www.cariani.com**Phone:** 617-964-0273; 857-231-1284 cell**Class meetings:** M3-5 PM, WJH1305 (William James Hall)**Office hours:** Mondays, before and after class, and other times by appointment**Course website:** <http://isites.harvard.edu> (requires login, then find MBB91), also www.cariani.com

This is a preliminary syllabus. We will adjust it as needed to accommodate guest speakers. Below are listed the main book sections that we will read. I will also post online supplementary papers related to each topic.

Date	Lecture topic	Main discussion articles
Jan. 23	Course overview – The hows and whys of music's many effects Structural & functional aspects of music Psychological functions of music	No reading assignment for the first class. <i>The Music Instinct</i> (PBS documentary, DVD and streaming rental available @ Amazon) is highly recommended.
Jan. 30	Pitch Timbre	Stainsby, (OHMP, 5) McAdams (OHMP, 7)
Feb. 6	Consonance, scales & tuning Melody, harmony, tonality	McDermott & Oxenham TINS paper Handel chapter on Musical Grammars
Feb. 12	Rhythm and time Gestaltist groupings, memory & expectation • PROJECT TOPICS DUE (1-2 paragraphs)	Stevens, Jones (OHMP, 2 & 8) Snyder (OHMP, 10)
Feb. 20	NO CLASS – President's Day Holiday	
Feb. 27	Expectation, emotion & meaning, pleasure Disorders of musical cognition	Trainor & Zatorre (OHMP, 16) Optional: OHMB, 12, 13, 35 Stewart (OHMB, 17)
March 5	Neurology: musicians, absolute pitch, tone deafness Guest speaker: Psyche Loui, Beth Israel • PROJECT OUTLINES DUE (1 SS page)	Schlaug (OHMP, 18) 2 papers by Loui and Schlaug
March 12	NO CLASS – Spring Break	
March 19	Music, speech & language; GTTM	Patel (OHMB, 19), Jackendoff & Lerdahl
March 26	Finish language & music; intro to MT Begin origins of music: developmental, comparative, and evolutionary psychology of music	Thaut, Liens (OHMP, 47 & 49)
April 2	Music therapy Guest speaker: Kathleen Howland, music therapist	Trehub (OHMP, 21) Cross (OHMB, 1)
April 6	TERM PROJECTS DUE (7 SS pages)	(Further extensions by prior arrangement)
April 9	Student project presentations (10-15') and discussions	
April 16	Student project presentations (10-15') and discussions	
April 23	Last Meeting – Why music? Comparative and evolutionary perspectives Recapitulation /Synthesis/Reflection	

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Required textbook: *Oxford Handbook of Music Psychology* (OHMP). Hallam, Cross & Haut, eds. 2009. Oxford U. Press. Numbers in parentheses indicate chapter numbers. Copies of the book are available at the Harvard Coop under MBB91. Other, optional readings will be made available on the course website.

Prerequisites: We try to make this course as self-contained as possible, although some background in psychology, neuroscience, and/or music is obviously quite helpful. You don't need to be a musician or to read music. I would be happy to give supplementary tutorials in any of these areas if that is useful.

Format for class meetings: 2 short lectures interspersed with 2 discussion periods. 30' lecture followed by 30' topic discussion of the first class reading, break, then second 30' lecture followed by second 30' discussion. This format can be modified as we go along, and we may use different formats when we have outside speakers. So that you don't go into the readings completely cold, at the end of each class I will briefly outline what's in the readings for the next one.

Lecture PDFs: Lecture PDFs and papers of mine that are relevant to the topics we will cover are available on my server: <https://public.me.com/cariani> (the password is UNTREF). I request that you use these materials for academic purposes only and that you not post them on the web without my permission.

Assignments:

1) Term project paper (70 points total): Write a research paper on a topic of your choosing that is clearly related to the psychology of music. Tentative paper topics (1-2 paragraphs) will be due on Feb. 12 (5 pts), paper outlines (1 page, single-spaced) will be due on Feb. 27 (10 pts), and full papers (7 pages, single-spaced, 5+ solid references) will be due April 2 (40 points). Short (12') presentations of term projects will be given in the following two class meetings (10 points). I am happy to look at draft versions and give feedback at any point in the process. We will post more specific guidelines for paper formats and citations.

2) Weekly readings and discussions: (30 points total) There will be a one page (SS) informal writing assignment for each class meeting for which there are assigned readings (5 points each). Please submit at least 6 write-ups out of the 8 classes with readings. Extra credit of 5 points will be given if all 8 write-ups are submitted. For each assigned reading 1) summarize the major points of the section as you understand them, 2) list 3 points that you found new/interesting/puzzling and 3) list 3 questions about the topic for class discussion. The length of the whole write-up, including précis, points, and questions, should be 1 SS page or more. It is important for discussions that we all do the reading and come to class, so please turn in hardcopies of the paper at the beginning of each class.

Grading: There will be a total of 100 possible points for the course. Grading scale (A: 90-100; B: 80-90; C: 70-80; D: 65-70; F: below 65). Unless prior arrangements have been made before the due date, assignments handed in late will receive half credit. If you can't make class or complete an assignment on time due to extenuating circumstances, please let me know *ahead of time* and we can make allowances.

Course policies and expectations. We expect students to attend most (ideally all) class meetings and to actively participate in class discussions. Collaboration is encouraged, especially in preparing for class and in researching project topics, but the term project paper should be entirely your own writing (plagiarism will not be tolerated).

Communications: For all email communications, please begin the subject line with MBB91: followed by your name and subject, e.g. "MBB91: Cariani, Readings for February 29 class."

Feedback: My goal is to introduce you to the fundamental concepts in the psychology of music in the most expedient and convivial way possible. Please let me know if you have any special needs, special topics that you'd like to discuss, or suggestions for the course. We will try to accommodate all reasonable requests, albeit within our very limited time constraints. By all means bring in relevant musical examples for us to listen to, and also let me know immediately if anything is not completely clear (if it's not clear to you, it's unlikely to be clear for others in the room as well). I appreciate and will seriously consider any constructive suggestions on how to improve the course.