

Main goal:

- explore language, music, and the ways they relate to each other

Other goals:

- develop and improve critical thinking skills and clarity of written expression
- build and/or expand knowledge of linguistics and musical analysis
- expand experience with collaboration, develop research skills

This is largely a discussion-based course. Be prepared to talk!

Texts:

1. Levitin, Daniel. 2007. *This is Your Brain on Music*.
2. Mithen, Steven. 2006. *The Singing Neanderthal*.
3. Sacks, Oliver. 2007. *Musicophilia*.

Course materials:

Course materials will be made available **PRIMARILY IN ELECTRONIC FORM**, through Blackboard (<http://courses.utexas.edu>). Let me know ASAP if you have any trouble accessing Blackboard. Be green – print only when necessary.

Grading and requirements:

20 pts	exam one (in class September 30)
30 pts	exam two (take home (short essay format) due November 4)
25 pts	group research project: bibliography, report, and presentation
18 pts	homework (6 hws x 3 pts each)
5 pts	questions (on discussion boards)
2 pts	general participation

Attendance:

3 free absences, no explanations required --- but use them wisely
each additional: 1 point deducted from final grade (e.g. 8 total could drop low A to high B)

Participation:

The more everyone participates, the more interesting class will be. Discussions will be both in class and on Blackboard forums. Students expected to participate in both.

Odds and ends:

- hw accepted until 5pm on the due date, mailbox in Calhoun 503; late hw will be accepted only until the next class period and won't be eligible for full credit
- no makeup exams except in truly dire situations
- please, no handwritten assignments
- NO LAPTOPS IN CLASS (if you have special circumstances, please come talk to me)

Academic Honesty:

You must do your own work, and you must acknowledge the use of anyone else's words or ideas. Copying or allowing others to copy violates university policies. Cases of suspected scholastic dishonesty will be turned over to the Dean of Students for inquiry, with my recommendation being a failing grade for the course. If you have specific questions about these issues, contact the Office of the Dean of Students in FAC 248. *** I DO CHECK PAPERS FOR PLAGIARISM. ***

Religious Holidays:

If you need to miss a class or test in order to observe a religious holiday at any time during the semester, the university requires that you let me know of this fact in writing two weeks before the holiday, or on the first day of class if the absence will occur during the first two weeks of class.

Special Needs:

If you have any special needs associated with learning or physical disabilities, please see me to discuss accommodations. Before course accommodations can be made, you may be required to provide documentation for the Office of the Dean of Students, Services for Students with Disabilities.

Unit One: The Music of Language, the Language of Music

- genre and the elements of music
- linguistics and the elements of language
- sound, structure, and meaning in language
- sound, structure, and meaning in music

Unit Two: Relationships between Language and Music

- use of language in and about music
- origins and evolution of language and music
- language, music, and the brain
- non-western musical traditions
- music and emotion

Unit Three: Language, Music, Culture, and Society

- language, music, and resistance
- language, music, and identity
- language, music, and social control
- group presentations

Dates (tentative)

8/28 – 9/25 unit one
9/30 exam one (in class)
10/2 – 10/30 unit two
11/4 exam two due (take home)
11/27 Thanksgiving holiday ,
no class
12/4 last class day

Project & Presentation Dates (tentative)

10/2 form project groups
10/14 project topic proposal due
11/11 project bibliography due
11/25 presentations
12/2 presentations
12/4 presentations
final exam day: project reports due