

ANNOUNCING:

Spring Term, 2009

Language and Music

Musi-Psyc G4232y

Professors Lerdahl & Remez

620 Dodge

Tuesday, 6:10-8:00 pm

Within the study of cognitive psychology, recent advances in the accounts of spoken communication and musical communication have exhibited reciprocal influence. This seminar introduces classic and contemporary aspects of this technical literature.

The course is organized into four components. First, we will consider the scientific scrutiny of remote evolutionary origins and the more proximate neural expression of language and music. Then we will consult the descriptive literature to establish the parallel structural properties of musical form and linguistic form where these exist, as well as the properties unique to each communicative mode. Then, perceptual literature will be examined for evidence of natural constraints that limit or govern linguistic and musical form, from element to phrase to larger compositional constituents. Then, the attention of the seminar will turn to the literature on the alignment of music and language in songs. Throughout, the readings draw on recent formal studies as well as behavioral research including neuropsychological reports.



Instructor's permission is required to enroll in this seminar. You must attend the first meeting on January 20, 2009 to secure a place.
Direct your question about this to: awlr@columbia.edu or remez@columbia.edu.