

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC: PERCEPTION AND AESTHETICS

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND, BRISTOL
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Central Texts:

- (1) Davies, Stephen (2003). *Themes in the Philosophy of Music*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- (2) Deutsch, Diana, ed. (1999). *The Psychology of Music*, 2nd Edition. London: Academic Press. Selected essays.
- (3) Krumhansl, Carol L. (1990). *Cognitive Foundations of Musical Pitch*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- (4) Levinson, Jerrold (1990). *Music, Art and Metaphysics*. London: Cornell University Press.
- (5) Levinson, Jerrold (1996). *The Pleasures of Aesthetics*. London: Cornell University Press.
- (6) Sloboda, John A. (1985). *The Musical Mind: The Cognitive Psychology of Music*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Week One:

Lecture: Introduction to the problem of musical perception—a diachotomy between culture and genetics? Perception and intentionality.

Seminar: No seminar topic.

Week Two:

Lecture: What are musical properties? Pythagoreanism and music. Primary, secondary and tertiary qualities. The problems of supervenience.

Reading: Levinson, 'Aesthetic Supervenience', in *Music, Art and Metaphysics*.

Seminar: What is Music?

Reading: Levinson, 'The Concept of Music', in *Music, Art and Metaphysics*.

Week Three:

Lecture: Sound and Music: The perceptual basis for music is identified in acoustics.

Reading: Deutsch, Ch. 4

Seminar: Musical Literacy

Reading: Levinson, 'Musical Literacy', in *The Pleasures of Aesthetics*.

Week Four:

Lecture: Nuance and Aesthetic Response: An argument for Aesthetic Empiricism?

Reading: Raffman, Ch. 3

Seminar: The Scale Illusion

Reading: Sloboda, Ch. 5, pages 151-166.

Week Five:

Lecture: Is there a biological basis for musical sensitivity?

Reading: Sloboda, Ch. 7

Seminar: Musical Enculturation

Reading: Sloboda, Ch. 6

Week Six:

Lecture: Music and Emotion

Reading: Davies, 'The Expression of Emotion in Music', in *Themes in the Philosophy of Music*.

Seminar: Negative Emotions

Reading: Levinson, 'Music and Negative Emotions', in *Music, Art and Metaphysics*.

Week Seven:

Lecture: Musical Understanding

Reading: Davies, 'Musical Understanding and Musical Kinds', in *Themes in the Philosophy of Music*.

Seminar: The Value of Music

Reading: Budd, Malcolm (1995). *Values of Art*. London: Penguin Books, Ch. 4

Week Eight:

Lecture: The Role of Music Criticism

Reading: DeBellis, Mark (1995). 'Theoretically Informed Listening', in *Music and Conceptualisation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Seminar: The Evaluation of Music

Reading: Levinson, 'Evaluating Musical Performance', in *Music, Art and Metaphysics*.

Week Nine:

Lecture: Music and Language

Reading: Raffman, Ch. 3

Seminar: The 'Language of Emotions' Hypothesis

Reading: Davies, 'Is Music a Language of the Emotions?', in *Themes in the Philosophy of Music*.