

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FALL SEMESTER 2005**

**EDUC 469-4
MUSIC EDUCATION AS THINKING IN SOUND
(E01.00)**

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THURSDAY 16:30-20:20 in EDB 7500B

PREREQUISITE: 60 credit hours and some basic music knowledge with, preferably, some teaching experience.

DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide students with the opportunity to examine critically key issues associated with music psychology and education. Music plays an important role in all human societies. It is an essential component of most rituals, ceremonies and gatherings, whether they are religious, festive, sporting, educational or political. Most people spend considerable periods of time every day listening to music. School children often learn to play a musical instrument, or sing in a choir. A piece of music can put you in a good mood, or it can move you to tears. It can make you want to sing and dance, or send you into a deep state of relaxation. It can sound orderly or chaotic, consonant or dissonant, interesting or boring, familiar or strange. Music affects people's lives in innumerable ways. It can help you to identify with, or cause you to feel rejected by, a particular social group. This course will explore these issues through readings and discussion on wide-ranging topics such as: development of musical recognition; cognitive representations of music; perception of musical structure; motivation and music performance achievement; the 'Mozart effect'; musical identities; gender issues in music education; contemporary issues in music education and technology. All these phenomena impact on music education in a variety of ways. As such, the course will assist teachers in developing their understanding of music education practice, the cognition of musical structure, and the development of musical skills and knowledge.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be required to prepare a brief (single page) summary of selected readings (together worth 20% of the final grade). Students will also undertake one presentation each and lead a group discussion on a topic that is related to the course readings (worth 20% of the final grade). Students will also be required to submit one major paper (10-15 double-spaced pages) on a topic relevant to the course and agreed in consultation with the course instructor (40% of the final grade), and to give a brief presentation based on their ideas for the major paper to the class (20% of the final grade).

REQUIRED READINGS:

Readings and documents will be provided in class by the instructor(s).

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