

Syllabus: LINGUIST 197M - Language and Music

Basic course info

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| Course: | 53260 / 3 units | Instructor/TA: | Kristine Yu / Andrew Lamont |
| Meetings: | TTh 13:00 - 14:15 / ILC N451 | Office: | ILC N422 / ILC N421F |
| Office hours: | By appointment | E-mail: | krisyu@linguist.umass.edu alamont@umass.edu |

Web resources:

- **Course webpage:** <https://ling197m.krisyu.org>
 - For course organization, announcements, links to course material
- **Moodle**
 - For discussion of readings/assignments (Moodle forums), turning in assignments/exams, and record keeping of grades

Prerequisites None. (Curiosity and an open mind!)

Course goals By the end of this course, you will have:

- Developed your awareness and understanding of linguistic and musical diversity around the world
- Learned about the similarities and differences between the structures of language and music, and between linguistic and musical cognition

Requirements and grading

- Course participation (15%)
- Assignments (15% total, evenly divided between approx. 8-10 assignments)
- Exams (30% total, 10% each for 3 exams)
- Term project presentation (group) (15%)
- Term project writeup (individual) (25%)

Grades will be recorded throughout the semester on the course Moodle page.

Course participation (15%) Each class meeting will begin with a set of review questions, linked from the course webpage. **You must be logged in with your UMass account in order to access the review questions.** Your participation grade will come from receiving credit for completing the review questions in each class meeting. Each class meeting's review question set will count equally towards the grade. In exceptional circumstances when you have an excused absence (see attendance policy at end of syllabus), you can still complete the review question later and still get credit. Two extra credit opportunities will result in points in this category:

- *Extra credit opportunity: Talking Black in America screening/panel discussion*
Attend this special event on **February 5, 2018 5:30-7:30pm in ILC N451** and write a short 400-500 word response reflecting on what you learned, and reflect on connections to music. See [this page](#) for more details about the event. This will be worth 0.5% extra credit in course participation. The reflection assignment will be due by February 13, to be submitted on Moodle.
- *Extra credit opportunity: experimental participation*
As part of this course, you are encouraged to earn 4 credits of experimental participation (=2% extra in course participation grade, i.e., 1 experimental credit = 0.5% in the course) in the Experimental Linguistics labs, which are located in the Linguistics department in the Integrative Learning Center. To browse the range of experimental opportunities available to you, please sign onto the SONA systems website for the Linguistics department: <https://umassxling.sona-systems.com>

After the Add/Drop period ends, you will receive an email inviting you to set up an account. If you do not receive this email, you may go to the web address above and request an account on your own. If you do this, be sure to select any and all linguistics courses you are in this semester when you log in. After completing a brief pre-screen, you will be able to sign up for experiments that look interesting to you. Very short experiments will give one credit; more typically, a single experimental session will count as two experimental credits. If you are unable to sign up for an experiment, you may contact the experimenters directly through the SONA system.

Participation in experimental research is highly encouraged, as it gives you insight into the day-to-day work of linguists studying human language. However, if you do not wish to participate in experimental research, you may get extra credit by completing an alternative assignment or through completing alternative credit opportunities, which are posted on SONA three times a semester.

Assignments (15%) Assignments will be released on Thursdays and **due the following Tuesday before class**, via our course Moodle page. Assignments may involve asking questions/commenting on a reading assignment in a Moodle forum or doing some hands-on work and reporting on your results. All reading materials will be made available via the course website. See late work policy at end of syllabus. Towards the end of the semester when you are working on projects, there will be only limited assignments to give you time to work on your project.

Exams (30%) At the end of each of the first three units (Pitch, Timbre and Rhythm), there will be a short individual take-home exam. These will be turned in on Moodle (10% per exam).

Term projects (40%) Each student will participate in a group research project over the course of the semester that will culminate in an individual final write-up (25%) and a group presentation (15%). We will discuss project ideas and start working on them about mid-way through the semester. Each group member will get the same grade for the presentation, but each individual student must do a separate project write-up (which will then be graded individually).

Tentative course outline Subject to adjustment! For the most updated version see the [course webpage](#).

- Week 1-3: Pitch
- Week 4-6: Timbre
- Week 7-9: Rhythm

- Week 10 on: Special topics, depending on student interest/projects
 - Final project presentations in Week 14
 - Final project write-ups due 05/08/18

Elasticity Statement As the course proceeds during the semester, there may be some changes made to the syllabus, e.g., adjustment of topics according to student interest, assignment timing changes. All such changes will be announced. The course webpage will always be kept up-to-date.

Accommodation Statement The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS), you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations to help you succeed in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify me within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements.

Academic Honesty Statement Since the integrity of the academic enterprise of any institution of higher education requires honesty in scholarship and research, academic honesty is required of all students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in all programs of the University. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and facilitating dishonesty. Appropriate sanctions may be imposed on any student who has committed an act of academic dishonesty. Instructors should take reasonable steps to address academic misconduct. Any person who has reason to believe that a student has committed academic dishonesty should bring such information to the attention of the appropriate course instructor as soon as possible. Instances of academic dishonesty not related to a specific course should be brought to the attention of the appropriate department Head or Chair. Since students are expected to be familiar with this policy and the commonly accepted standards of academic integrity, ignorance of such standards is not normally sufficient evidence of lack of intent (http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/).

Late work/attendance policy Late submission of work (assignments, final project write-up) is allowed up to 1 week after the original due date, but 10% will be deducted for each late day. Exceptions are made in cases of extreme illness or emergencies that are communicated to the instructor in a timely manner.

See the university policy on class absence here: <http://www.umass.edu/registrar/students/policies-and-practices/class-absence-policy>. **Notify both the instructors when you are absent. You are responsible for catching up for missed class materials; feel free to contact the instructors if you are confused about anything.**