

Music Psychology (A000184)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	Dutch, English	Gent	lecture seminar
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Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Maes, Pieter-Jan	LW17	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Psychology(main subject Theoretical and Experimental Psychology)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme Art Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme in Psychology	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Music psychology, Action, Perception, Interaction

Position of the course

Music Psychology aims to provide students insight and skills into the foundations of music psychology and experimental work. Students should be able to clearly explain the theoretical foundations of music psychology and they have to show that the acquired skills concerning measurement methods can be related to the theoretical insights and to relevant research hypotheses.

Contents

The course contains a theoretical and a practical part. The theoretical part begins with situating the study field of "music psychology" in musicology, and with the introduction of basis concepts concerning action, perception and musical interaction. The course then goes deeper into recent scientific insights in predictive coding theory, in emotion theory and in expression. Predictive processes such as entrainment and alignment are then discussed in more detail. In the second part of the course, attention is devoted to the acquisition of experimental skills in ASIL (the art and science interaction lab of musicology at the Krook). The focus is on the study of music interaction (e.g. 2 musicians making music together), and on methods to measure and analyse this interaction.

The course is based on research results of music research, in which experiments are used for the study of musical communication and signification. Music is thereby studied starting from acoustical structures, processes of human information processing, and the constraints of the cultural environment.

Initial competences

Students that aim at following this course should have followed Foundations of musical acoustics and sonology ([A005289](#)) and Foundations of musical action and perception ([A005290](#)) successfully. Erasmus students can negotiate with the professor.

Final competences

- 1 Demonstration that the skills concerning measurement methods can be related to theoretical concepts, to relevant research hypotheses and to ways of testing these hypotheses.
- 2 Critical reflection on existing theories (e.g. dynamical systems theory, predictive coding) in the light of empirical research in which objective methods for measuring are used.
- 3 Form an opinion about given domain literature in music psychology.
- 4 Presentation of proper research hypotheses on a specific theme of music interaction.
- 5 Being able to link new developments in music psychology with the ways in which people deal with music every day.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Participation to laboratory session in the musicological lab ASIL in the Krook. Students will be learned skills for using recordings of audio and mocap (motion capture with infra-red cameras).

Study material

None

References**Course content-related study coaching**

Individual discussion with the professor and with his research collaborators

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Calculation of the examination mark**Facilities for Working Students**

Facilities:

- 1 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year
- 2 Feedback can be given during an appointment during or after office hours

Extra information:

Attending the labo-sessions is obliged.

For more information contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy: <https://www.ugent.be/lw/nl/student/studiestudentenbegeleiding/trajectbegeleiding.htm>