




# Course Syllabus

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- **MBB 980P**
- **Harvard College/Graduate School of Arts and Sciences:** 205158
- **Term:** Fall 2019-2020
- **Course Instructor(s):** Lisa Wong
- **Location:** Lowell Hall B-14 (FAS)
- **Meeting Time:** Thursday 03:00 PM - 05:00 PM
- **Exam Group:** FAS10\_A
- **Course Description:** Music shapes the course of human history at both a micro and macro scale; it can make an individual weep and rally crowds of thousands to cheer. The "universal language" has the power to connect people who share no other common ground. Its power to bring people together is intuitively understood, but only through recent neuroimaging advances over the past 50 years have scientists been able to move past intuition to reveal its impact on the brain. Through this course, we will examine the exciting progress of the fields of music and medicine, through a variety of lenses. Who are the key investigators and practitioners in today's emerging music / brain landscape? What are the latest discoveries about how music influences the brain? How does the direct application of music function — how do we hear, how do we listen, and what happens when this process goes wrong? What has music's role been through human history, and where does that bring us to? This course invites the student to deepen his/her relationship with music exploring different aspects of the art form through several perspectives including neuroscientist, educator, musician, therapist, patient, and healthcare provider. By the end of this course, the learner will (1) understand the effect of music on the developing brain; (2) understand the mechanism of hearing music; (3) consider the pathophysiology of disordered movement and hearing and how music can be used therapeutically; and (4) understand how other disciplines can add educational and neuroscientific knowledge to therapeutic uses of music. Students will be invited to bring their own experiences to the seminar, and to pursue a final independent project, conducting a combination of scientific, historical, education, or psychology research. In the final weeks, they will present their findings to the group in oral, written or musical format. Given the transdisciplinary nature of the work, students will be challenged to read literature from a variety of genres, from lay literature to educational monographs to scientific papers. This will lead to discussion of some of the key questions in interdisciplinary study between the sciences and the arts: how to research and document outcomes. How do we agree on common definitions of research in disparate fields? What constitutes research to a musician? A music therapist? A neuroscientist? A physician? What is proof of success? What can/should be measured?
- **Notes:** To be admitted to this course, attend first class meeting and complete MBB Seminar Lottery (instructions at <https://mbb.harvard.edu/seminars>). Enrollment priority to MBB track juniors and MBB secondary field juniors. Preference to juniors in MBB tracks or MBB secondary field.

## Course Summary:

Date	Details
Fri Sep 13, 2019	 <a href="https://canvas.harvard.edu/calendar?event_id=352627&amp;include_contexts=course_63600">Optional concert: A Far Cry (https://canvas.harvard.edu/calendar?event_id=352627&amp;include_contexts=course_63600)</a> <span style="float: right;">7:30pm to 9:30pm</span>
Thu Sep 26, 2019	 <a href="https://canvas.harvard.edu/calendar?event_id=363133&amp;include_contexts=course_63600">OPTIONAL : Chicago Public Schools: A Transformation Story (https://canvas.harvard.edu/calendar?event_id=363133&amp;include_contexts=course_63600)</a> <span style="float: right;">5:30pm to 7pm</span>
Sat Oct 5, 2019	 <a href="https://canvas.harvard.edu/calendar?event_id=352629&amp;include_contexts=course_63600">Optional Concert: Longwood Symphony Orchestra (https://canvas.harvard.edu/calendar?event_id=352629&amp;include_contexts=course_63600)</a> <span style="float: right;">8pm to 10pm</span>