

Course Syllabus for Sessional Faculty Appointment (EXPLORE 3IE1)

McMaster University  
School of Interdisciplinary Sciences  
EXPLORE 3IE1: Millennials, Music & the Mind  
Fall and 2020

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**Class Meeting Day/Time/Duration and Location:**

4-week course starting on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Tuesdays 3-5 pm, location TBA.

**Instructor:**

Bre-Anna Owusu

**Contact Information:**

kingb10@mcmaster.ca

**Office Hours:**

N/A

**Prerequisites:**

Registration in Level III/IV of any Arts or Science program.

**Course Description:**

An introduction on how to critically analyze academic literature in the fields of arts, social science and science, relating to the ways in which humans listen to music, create music and how music affects the human brain, focusing on topics such as mental health, song lyrics and social campaigns such as, “Bell Let’s Talk”.

**Course Format:**

This course is made up of weekly, 2-hour seminars focusing on creative, collaborative and analytical skills, and critical thinking. Most weeks will be devoted to an analysis of academic literature focused on a particular mental illness, followed by brief group oral presentations in-class. Students are expected to attend all classes.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their participation in the weekly seminars; attendance, their oral presentation of scientific findings and their own interpretations; a criticism piece of the movie “The Soloist”, feedback given to their peers on oral presentations; a community out-reach event shadowing a music therapist or delivering a presentation on mental health awareness to at risk children in the Hamilton Area; and a final reflection written piece.

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Classify and describe reasons why humans listen to and create music from an evolutionary perspective;
2. Critique some of arts and science's leading theories regarding music therapy and mental illness;
3. Analyze the ways in which the music they listen to affects their own lives;
4. Improve oral, and analysis skills through presenting scientific findings
5. Improve writing and reflection skills through completing written reflections and community out-reach activities
6. Improve criticism skills through providing peer feedback

### Required Course Materials and Fees:

No textbook required. Please bring laptop to class.

### Course Assessments:

Although this is a pass/fail course please see below for a detailed description of the structure for this course's assessment.

Assessment	Due Date	Weight
1. Participation is assessed on the basis of attendance and active informed participation discussing scientific literature and social topics. Active and informed participation demonstrates an understanding of class discussion, synthesizing material over several weeks	Weekly	15%
2. Oral Presentations will be assessed weekly. These oral presentations will occur in groups of 3 and are based on connecting academic literature to current and relevant social issues regarding mental health. These presentations will hone your collaborative, analytical and critical thinking skills.	Weekly	15%

3. Peer Feedback is assessed on the basis that the students provide constructive feedback for their peer's oral presentations. Submit in-class.	Last day of class (Sept. 29)	10 %
4. The Community Out-Reach Event is assessed on the basis that students in groups of 4 shadow a music therapist at Emmanuel House during the third week of classes. Groups are only required to shadow 1 day out of the week for 2 hours.	Sept. 22th -25th	40 %
5. The written Reflection Assignment assesses the student's capability to critically and concisely reflect on their experience throughout the course leading up to the community out-reach event. Students must reflect on how the course material helped create their presentation for the out-reach event and how they felt after presenting at these schools	Sept. 29th	20 %
		TOTAL: 100%

**Submission of Course Work:**

Course work will be submitted on Avenue to Learn, unless otherwise stated.

**Course Schedule:**

**Week 1: September 8<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Topics:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief Introduction and History</li> </ul>
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**Week 2: September 15<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Topics:</b>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music Therapy and Song Lyrics</li></ul>
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**Week 3: September 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Topics:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Out-Reach, "The Soloist" (in class)</li></ul>
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**Week 4: Date**

<b>Topics:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guest Lecture: Personal Experience with Mental Health and Music</li></ul>
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