



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

LINN14, Linguistics: Language and Music, 7.5 credits

Lingvistik: Språk och musik, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2011-09-28 to be valid from 2011-09-28, spring semester 2012.

General Information

The course is offered as an elective component of the MA programme in Language and Linguistics. It is also offered as free-standing course and can normally be included as part of a general first- or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

The course can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by both the lecturer and the students. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturer and the students having a good knowledge of Swedish.

Main field of studies

Language and Linguistics

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to explain how language and music can be regarded as parallel human phenomena
- be able to discuss different theories of the structural similarities between language and music
- be able to describe already known correlations between language and music
- be able to explain how language and music may affect each other

- be able to account for some neurophysiological parallels in the perceptions of music and language.

Competence and skills

- be able to establish verifiable hypotheses, based on linguistic data and observed correlations between language and music, on possible properties of music in cultures with different languages
- be able to design relevant experiments for testing correlations between language and music.

Judgement and approach

- be able to approach issues of music and language scholarly, analytically and critically
- be able to assess different hypotheses on the possible common origins of language and music.

Course content

Recent decades have observed clear parallels between language and music: both are universal as culturally variable phenomena in all human communities and both display structural similarities. Furthermore, composers with different native languages exhibit small but measurable differences that can be traced to the properties of the native language. Finally, it has been shown that neurolinguistic perception experiments can be transferred to music with similar results, indicating that both phenomena exploit the same neurological resources. Observations like these have led some researchers to hypothesise that language and music have common origins. The aim of the course is for students to become acquainted with the relevant empirical data and theories of the subject. Furthermore, students learn to survey the conceivable consequences of correlations between music and language and, against this background, develop their own verifiable hypotheses, predictions and experiments.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures, compulsory exercises and compulsory group work.

Assessment

The assessment is based on approximately four exercises and a take-home exam.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course students must have successfully completed 60 credits in linguistics or a language subject or in musicology or cognitive science or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.

Subcourses in LINN14, Linguistics: Language and Music

Applies from V11

1001 Linguistics: Language and Music, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction