Space and Place
in Sound and Music Studies
Music-GA 2199-002

Professor: Andrew J. Eisenberg (andrew.eisenberg@nyu.edu)
Meeting time: Wednesdays 10am-12pm
Location: Waverly Building, 2nd Floor, Room 268
Office Hour: Tuesday 11am-12pm

Course Overview
Sound and space are intimately and inextricably linked--perhaps especially when that sound is of the special sort we call “music.” In this seminar we will chart a path through the eclectic, multidisciplinary literature on sound and space, by isolating key spatialities that have been explored by scholars in relation to sound and music, such as the virtual, ecology, place, and circulation. We will give special emphasis to place, delving deeply into issues of music and emplacement and what Steven Feld has termed the “acoustemology of place.” Course assignments will challenge you to engage with theoretical concepts at various levels of abstraction. You will be asked to grapple with philosophical questions of sound, music, space, and place on their own terms, and then to connect these questions to more worldly concerns like climate change, gun violence, or the plight of refugees.

Assignments and Grade Calculation
• Attendance and General Participation (15%) [NB More than two absences may result in failure of the course]
• In-Class Presentations (including final paper presentation) (15%): Each session will open with a brief presentation by one to three student/s. Presentations may be informal in style, but should be well prepared and well timed.
• Short Papers (35%): Three, five-page critical papers based on prompts.
• Final Paper (35%): An 18-20-page paper that brings original research (of any kind) into a dialogue with course readings.

Attendance and Participation
This seminar is a collaborative undertaking. As a participant you are expected to attend every session. Please be punctual, and communicate with me about any
expected or unforeseen latenesses or absences. Except in exceptional circumstances, more than two absences will result in failure of the course.

**Work Submission Policy**

Please submit all written work in digital form (MS Word or PDF), double-spaced, 12-point standard font (Times New Roman, Cambria, etc.).

Some leeway (less than a week) may be allowed on deadlines, provided you communicate with me at least a few days in advance.

**Books**

All texts have been placed on reserve at Bobst Library. Some may also be available digitally via NYU Libraries.

**Required**


**Recommended**


**Syllabus**

**Week 1: Introduction [Jan. 25]**

**Required Reading**


**Week 2: Space, Place, and the Social [Feb. 1]**

**Required Reading**

- Low, Setha. 2016. *Spatializing Culture: The Ethnography of Space and Place*. Routledge. [Chapters 1 and 2]
Sound, Space, and Perception

Week 3: Ontologies and Epistemologies of Sound and Space [Feb. 8]

Required Reading


Further Reading


Week 4: The Sensorium and the Phenomenology of Sound and Space [Feb. 15]

Required Reading


Further Reading


Week 5: Sound Recording and Sonic Spatialization [Feb. 22]

Short Paper I (due by end of day Thursday) -- 5-page critical reflection dealing in depth with at least one text Week 3 and one text from Week 4

Required Reading


Further Reading


### Geographies of Music

![Image](https://example.com/image.jpg)

**Week 6: Music and Cultural Geography [March 1]**

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


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2 Photo: Andrew J. Eisenberg.

Week 7: Music and Urban Space in the Global South [March 8]
Required Reading
Further Reading

Week 8: Music and Circulation [March 22]
Required Reading
Further Reading
**Week 9: The Soundscape: Issues of Documentation and Representation** [March 29]

Short Paper II (due by end of day Thursday) -- 5-page paper on a current news item about music (any kind of music in any part of the world), applying an insight or theory from cultural geography.

**Required Reading/Listening**


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### Further Reading/Listening/Viewing


• Bernie Krause TED talk: [https://www.ted.com/talks/bernie_krause_the_voice_of_the_natural_world](https://www.ted.com/talks/bernie_krause_the_voice_of_the_natural_world).


### Week 10: Rethinking the Soundscape [April 5]

#### Required Reading


Ethnographies of Sound and Space

Week 11: Sounding Public and Private Spaces, I [April 12]

Required Reading


Further Reading


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Week 12: Listening to War [April 19] [Guest interlocutor: Prof. Martin Daughtry]
Short Paper III (due by end of day Thursday) -- 5-page critical reflection or polemic on the terms “soundscape” and “acoustemology,” assessing the utility of each and how they should or should not be deployed.

Required Reading

Week 13: Music and Chronotope [April 26]
Required Reading

Week 14: Presentations and Wrap-Up [May 3]

Final Paper due date TBA