

Auditory Theory: Aesthetics & Communication

MUS 410 01

3 credits

Tuesday & Thursday 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM

Location: Benildus 249

Instructor: Steven M. Miller

Office: Benildus 237

Phone: x6197

Email: smill@csf.edu

www: <http://pubweb.csf.edu/~smill>

Semester Schedule

Week 1 - What is Music, and What is its Purpose?

Tues Jan 16

Steven M. Miller and David Dunn, "Sound and Science" on *Arts Electric* online source
<http://www.arts-electric.org/articles/051205.dunn.html>

Thurs Jan 18

Student-selected short readings; listening & discussion
Sign up for presentation dates (see syllabus)

Week 2 - Meaning in Music: Cultural Constructs, or 'How Does Music Say What it Means?'

Tues Jan 23

Christopher Small, "Prelude: Music and Musicking" in *Small Musicking*, Wesleyan Univ. Press 1998

Christopher Small, "Interlude 3: Socially Constructed Meanings" in *Small Musicking*, Wesleyan Univ. Press 1998

Leonard B. Meyer, "Meaning in Music and Information Theory" in *Meyer Music, the Arts, and Ideas*, University of Chicago Press, 1967

Leonard B. Meyer, "Some Remarks on Value and Greatness in Music" in *Meyer Music, the Arts, and Ideas*, University of Chicago Press, 1967

Leonard B. Meyer, "On Rehearing Music" in *Meyer Music, the Arts, and Ideas*, University of Chicago Press, 1967

Thurs Jan 25

Listening & Discussion

Week 3 - New Paradigms: Composition & Performance Practice

Tues Jan 30

Edgard Varèse, "The Liberation of Sound" in Richard Kostelanetz and Joseph Darby, eds. *Classic Essays on Twentieth-Century Music*, Schirmer 1996

Milton Babbitt, "The Composer As Specialist" in Richard Kostelanetz and Joseph Darby, eds. *Classic Essays on Twentieth-Century Music*, Schirmer 1996

John Cage, "The Future of Music: Credo" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Thurs Feb 1

Listening & Discussion

Week 4 - Experimental Music

Tues Feb 6

Michael Nyman, "Towards (a Definition of) Experimental Music" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

John Cage, "Experimental Music" in Richard Kostelanetz and Joseph Darby, eds. *Classic Essays on Twentieth-Century Music*, Schirmer 1996

John Cage, "Introduction to *Themes & Variations*" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Thurs Feb 8

Listening & Discussion

Topics for midterm papers selected

Week 5 - John Cage: Critical Responses

Tues Feb 13

Frances Dyson, "The Ear that Would Hear Sounds in Themselves: John Cage 1935-1965" in Douglas Kahn and Gregory Whitehead, eds. *Wireless Imagination; Sound, Radio and the Avant-Garde*, MIT Press 1992

Douglas Kahn, "The Impossible Inaudible" in Kahn *Noise Water Meat; A History of Sound in the Arts*, MIT Press 1999

Douglas Kahn, "John Cage: Silence and Silencing" in Kahn *Noise Water Meat; A History of Sound in the Arts*, MIT Press 1999

Thurs Feb 15

Listening & Discussion

Week 6 - Noise: Music of All Sounds

Tues Feb 20

Jacques Attali, "Noise and Politics" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Luigi Russolo, "The Art of Noises: Futurist Manifesto" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Morton Feldman, "Sound, Noise, Varèse, Boulez" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Henry Cowell, "The Joys of Noise" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Chad Hensley, "The Beauty of Noise: An Interview with Masami Akita of Merzbow" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Thurs Feb 22

Listening & Discussion

Week 7 - Modernism, Postmodernism, and Beyond

Tues Feb 27

Jonathan Kramer, "The Nature and Origins of Musical Postmodernism" in Judy Lochhead and Joseph Auner, eds. *Postmodern Music/Postmodern Thought*, Routledge 2002

Timothy Taylor, "Music and Musical Practices in Postmodernity" in Judy Lochhead and Joseph Auner, eds. *Postmodern Music/Postmodern Thought*, Routledge 2002

Thurs Mar 1

Listening & Discussion

Week 8 - Music, Sound, and the Environment

Tues Mar 6

R. Murray Schafer, "Interlude: Music, the Soundscape and Changing Perceptions" in Schafer *The Soundscape; Our Sonic Environment and the Tuning of the World*, Destiny Books 1994 [1977]

R. Murray Schafer, "Music and the Soundscape" in Richard Kostelanetz and Joseph Darby, eds. *Classic Essays on Twentieth-Century Music*, Schirmer 1996

R. Murray Schafer, "The Music of the Environment" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Mark Slouka, "Listening for Silence: Notes on the Aural Life" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Fran Tonkiss, "Aural Postcards: Sound, Memory and the City" in Michael Bull and Les Back, eds. *The Auditory Culture Reader*, Berg 2003

Thurs Mar 8

Listening & Discussion

Midterm papers due

Week 9 - Spring Break

Week 10 - Listening Strategies, or 'What is this I'm Hearing?'

Tues Mar 20

R. Murray Schafer, "Open Ears" in Michael Bull and Les Back, eds. *The Auditory Culture Reader*, Berg 2003

Hanns Eisler and Theodor Adorno, "The Politics of Hearing" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Pierre Schaeffer, "Acousmatics" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Francisco Lopez, "Profound Listening and Environmental Sound Matter" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Hillel Schwartz, "The Indefensible Ear" in Michael Bull and Les Back, eds. *The Auditory Culture Reader*, Berg 2003

Leigh Eric Schmidt, "Hearing Loss" in Michael Bull and Les Back, eds. *The Auditory Culture Reader*, Berg 2003

Thurs Mar 21

Listening & Discussion

Week 11 - Improvised Musics

Tues Mar 27

Ornette Coleman, "Change of the Century" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Derek Bailey, "Free Improvisation" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Frederic Rzewski, "Little Bangs: A Nihilist Theory of Improvisation" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

George E. Lewis, "Improvised Music After 1950: Afrological and Eurological Perspectives" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Thurs Mar 29

Listening & Discussion

Week 12 - Vernacular Musics: Blues, Jazz, and Pop/Rock

Tues Apr 3

Richard Powell, *The Blues Aesthetic: Black Culture and Modernism*, Washington Project for the Arts 1989

Paul Gilroy, "Between the Blues and the Blues Dance: Some Soundscapes of the Black Atlantic" in Michael Bull and Les Back, eds. *The Auditory Culture Reader*, Berg 2003

Simon Frith, "Towards an Aesthetic of Popular Music" in Richard Kostelanetz and Joseph Darby, eds. *Classic Essays on Twentieth-Century Music*, Schirmer 1996

Mary Russo and Daniel Warner, "Rough Music, Futurism, and Postpunk Industrial Noise Bands" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Simon Reynolds, "Post-Rock" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Thurs Apr 5

Listening & Discussion

Week 13 - Beg, Borrow, Steal: (Re)Productive Strategies

Tues Apr 10

Glenn Gould, "The Prospects of Recording" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Brian Eno, "The Studio as Compositional Tool" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

John Oswald, "Bettered by the Borrower: The Ethics of Musical Debt" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Chris Cutler, "Plunderphonia" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

MUS 410 – Auditory Theory: Aesthetics & Communication

Paul D. Miller, "Algorithms: Erasures and the Art of Memory" in Christoph Cox and Daniel Warner, eds. *Audio Culture; Readings in Modern Music*, Continuum 2004

Thurs Apr 12

Listening & Discussion

Week 14 - The Politics of Dancing (or Listening, or...)

Tues Apr 17

Lisa Nicol, "Culture, Custom and Collaboration: The Production of Yothu Yindi's 'Treaty' Videos" in Philip Hayward, ed. *Sound Alliances*, Cassell 1998

Philip Hayward, "Safe, Exotic and Somewhere Else: Yothu Yindi, 'Treaty' and the Mediation of Aboriginality" in Hayward, ed. *Sound Alliances*, Cassell 1998

Vic Seidler, "Diasporic Sounds: Dis/Located Sounds" in Michael Bull and Les Back, eds. *The Auditory Culture Reader*, Berg 2003

Thurs Apr 19

Listening & Discussion

Week 15 - 'Global' Music: Politics, Culture, Media (Who's Music is it Anyway?)

Tues Apr 24

Steven Feld, "pygmy POP; A Genealogy of Schizophonic Mimesis" in *Yearbook for Traditional Music* Vol. 27: 1-35, 1996

Steven Feld, "A Sweet Lullaby for World Music" in *Public Culture* Vol. 12, No. 1: 145-171, 2000

Thurs Apr 26

Listening & Discussion

Week 16 – Final Presentations

Tues May 1

3 presentation slots @ 20 min. each

Thurs May 3

3 presentation slots @ 20 min. each

Week 17 – Finals Week – More Final Presentations

Tues May 8 – 10:15 – 12:15

5 presentation slots @ 20 min. each
Final papers due