

Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

Summer Semester 2022

Phase Focus

Module Practice, Theory

Course Title Site-responsive Sound | Seminar

Course Times and Location Mondays, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. | location tba

Instructor [Chelsea Leventhal](#)

Email chelsealeventhal@gmail.com

Office Hours Upon request after class

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to look at site-specific and site-responsive sound practices, including the particular challenge of creating works with sound in public space. We will take a comprehensive approach, beginning with historical perspectives, theoretical analyses, and moving on to technical and practical challenges and strategies, as well as topics related to the social, political, and psychological engagement inherent in this work. Much of our time together will be spent outside and on-the-go, as the group will visit institutional sites in Berlin that have been host to multiple site-responsive works, as well as non-institutional public spaces of interest (also suggested by the participants). Together, we will present our research on the topic, discuss our experiences as both artists and encounterers, carry out creative and practical exercises, and create a shared base of knowledge, methods, and skills.

This seminar is for anyone who is interested in working outside of the white cube or the concert hall. At the end of the seminar, the participants will be able to better understand their own practice in the broader context of the history of site-responsive work, have benefitted from exchanging practical and technical strategies, and feel more confident submitting proposals for and carrying out site-responsive projects in the future.

Requirements for Attending

Please contact me with a short bio and your idea(s) for the 2CP presentation before our first meeting so that we can start creating our schedule. You will need a willingness to create a new piece for the seminar if you are planning to do the practice 4CP, and a willingness to engage in academic research and writing, if completing the theory 4CP.

The class is limited to 12 Students.

Exam / CP

2CP (not graded: Theory, Practice): regular attendance and 20 minute presentation on a historical/aesthetic or practical/technical aspect of site-responsive work. You can also lead the group in a creative exercise.

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Consecutive assignment leading to 4CP for the course (graded: Practice, Theory; grading: only the consecutive assignment is graded)

Practice - Participants will create a site-responsive sound work (installation, sound walk, performance, intervention) at a location of their choice and submit a 3-5 page professional documentation (including images) with video or audio documentation, along with a one-page analysis of the results. The piece, which might, for example, take the form of an intervention, installation, performance, or sound walk, may not overlap with work done for other SoundS seminars or workshops. You will present your plans in as much detail as possible at our final meeting. The documentation is due on October 15, 2022.

OR

Theory - Participants will write a term paper (8,000 words) that is related to our topic. The focus of your term paper and a short overview of your plans will be presented in our final meeting. The paper is due on October 15, 2022.

Schedule

1. Introduction to the topic and our work together. To get to know each other, each participant will bring documentation of a site-specific or site-responsive piece (their own or an artist they admire) to share with the group.
2. Historical influences + a survey of current practices and discourse, including presentations by participants.
3. On-site session at location #1: Practical and creative exercises related to navigating a first site visit, gathering information, brainstorming ideas, narrowing down possibilities, developing a concept and determining the first steps towards realization.
4. On-site session at location #2: Practical and creative exercises. Discussion of first ideas for the 4CP assignment.
5. Overview of practical and technical considerations and strategies, including presentations by participants. A closer look at strategies for documenting site-specific work.
6. On-site session at location #3, to be determined by the group. Exercises on site, some of which may be developed and led by participants.
7. Participants will present their concrete plans for the 4CP assignment

Supporting Media

A list of resources, including books, articles, catalogues, and artists' websites, will be provided at the beginning of the class.