

# Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

## Summer Term 2026

**Phase** Focus

**Module** Theory, Listening

**Course Title** **Pauline Oliveros: From experimental electronics to Deep Listening** | Seminar 1

**Course Times and Location** Thursdays | 10 am- 2 pm | LIE 314

**Instructors** [Dr. Julia H. Schröder](#) and [Kim Feser](#)

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**Office Hours and Location** Upon request

**Possible Credit Points** Theory 2CP/4CP (G), Listening 2CP/4CP (G), Free Focus 2CP/4CP (NG)

## Course Description

The composer Pauline Oliveros (1932–2016) is most famous for two contributions to music, her experimental electroacoustic music and her sonic meditations and deep listening. In the seminar we will look at her work in both phases and ask if connections can be found. Additionally, we will explore the cultural contexts of her aesthetics. Despite all the changes in sound materials and musical forms, we assume a certain continuity in Oliveros' works in terms of her aesthetic exploration of communicative sound processes.

In this theory seminar we will analyze music and other art works. The participants can offer works and topics beyond the ones in this syllabus.

## Exam / Credit Points

### **2CP assignment (graded: Theory; not graded: Free Focus):**

- regular attendance (in case of missed session: summary of texts handed in two weeks later),
- 15-minutes presentations,
- reading of assigned texts/listening/watching before every session, *see notes in italics*.
- participation in class discussions.

### **Consecutive assignment leading to a total of 4CP for the course (optional, graded: Theory; grading: mean of grades of both assignments; not graded: Free Focus):**

- all of 2CP requirements,
- Theory: paper outline; (2 pages printed, due 25<sup>th</sup> June)
- Theory: a term paper of 5.000 to 8.000 words on the presentation's topic (Final paper due: 1<sup>st</sup> November)

### **OR**

### **Consecutive assignment leading to a total of 4CP for the course (optional, graded: Listening; grading: mean of grades of both assignments; not graded: Free Focus):**

- all of 2CP requirements,
- Listening: project proposal (2 pages printed, due 25<sup>th</sup> June)
- Listening project: discuss with instructor (project due: Final paper due: 1<sup>st</sup> October)

# Sound Studies and Sonic Arts

## Schedule

- 16 April**      **1) Research hub:** Looking at literature, dividing reading, discovering topics to explore.  
*Bring your laptop.*
- 30 April**      **2) Experimental electronics:** Exploring the early electroacoustic works.  
Hands-on electronics with guest lecturer Kim Feser.
- 21 May**        **3) Oscillators and tape delay** – aesthetic discussion with Adorno and Deleuze  
with guest lecturer Kim Feser. *Reading assignment.*
- 28 May**        **4) Deep listening and sonic meditations** – text scores and meditation in the 1960s and 1970s.  
*Research in text scores. Short presentations 1.*
- 4 June**         **5) Reverberations** – towards an aesthetics of the drone. *Short presentations 2.*
- 18 June**       **6) Identity and music:** Can we hear sexual orientation, gender, disability, origins in music?  
*Bring musical example and arguments.*
- 25 June**       **7) Final discussion:** sharing results: discussing paper outlines and listening projects.

## Supporting Media

**Bernstein, David W.** (Ed.). *The San Francisco Tape Music Center. 1960s Counterculture and the Avant-Garde*, Berkeley: University of California Press. 2008.

[www.ucpress.edu/go/tapemusiccenter](http://www.ucpress.edu/go/tapemusiccenter) -> media

**Eck, Cathy van.** On Pauline Oliveros: "Applebox double." 1965. <https://microphonesandloudspeakers.com/2017/02/06/apple-box-double-by-pauline-oliveros/> (6 Feb. 2017).

**Gunden, Heidi von.** *The Music of Pauline Oliveros* Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press. 1983.

**Mockus, Martha.** *Sounding Out: Pauline Oliveros and Lesbian Musicality*, New York: Routledge, 2008.

**Oliveros, Pauline.** *Deep listening: A composer's sound practice*, New York, NY : iUniverse. 2005

**Oliveros, Pauline.** *Sounding the margins: Collected writings 1992–2009*, Kingston, N.Y.: Deep Listening Publication. 2010

**Oliveros, Pauline.** *Anthology of text scores*, ed. by Samuel Golter and Lawton Hall, New York : Deep Listening Publications. 2013

**Oliveros, Pauline.** *Sonic Meditations*, Kingston, NY : PoPandMoM Publications. 2022

**Oteri, Frank J.** "Interview with Pauline Oliveros." 2000. <https://newmusicusa.org/nmbx/pauline-oliveros-creating-performing-and-listening/> (8 Nov. 2002).

*Further articles and resources will be shared during the seminar.*