

**Sound and The City: Sound and Urban Intervention**  
**ITP NYU Spring 2010**  
**Daniel Perlin studio leader**

**Syllabus**

**Week 1.**

**Course description and introduction.**

Presentation 1: Daniel Perlin

A brief look at the history of sound design and recording

-topics: the skull, the ear, the body, kittler, attali, music vs. noise vs. sound, cage, flusser, duschamp, film sound, schaeffer,

Handout from John Cage and Pauline Oliveiros

Handout from Michael Bull

[http://www.deeplisting.org/pauline/writings/quantum\\_listening.html](http://www.deeplisting.org/pauline/writings/quantum_listening.html)

[http://www.ele-mental.org/ele\\_ment/said&did/future\\_of\\_music.html](http://www.ele-mental.org/ele_ment/said&did/future_of_music.html)

Assignment for week 1:

Deep listening exercise 1

Explanation of equipment and sign out

**Week 2.**

**What is sound?**

Look/listen to some of the deep listening exercises from week 1.

Presentation 2: Daniel Perlin

Sound and Urban Intervention: brief histories of sound, sound art and sound cities

Lesson:

1. Different ways of hearing. Thinking about the speaker and the ear
2. Basic principles of frequency and dynamics, A-D, D-A, digital vs. analogue
3. Discussion of site, program for design
4. Listen/look to a sound walk example

Assignment: Readings: Cardiff, Koolhaas

Sound walk: make a sound walk of a neighborhood. map it: upload to google maps mashup.

### **Week 3.**

#### **Approaching The City**

Look/listen to some of the deep sound walks from week 2.

Presentation 3: Guest Urban Planner from Metropolitan Exchange (MEx)

Lesson:

1. Brief outline of design strategies, elements:

Topics: Flusser, scale, Chion, Psycho, and the phantasmagoric voice from nowhere

2. Discussion of program.

3. Look at some additional examples in processing, max/msp/jitter

Assignment:

Design proposal for sound + city

### **Week 4.**

#### **Design Proposal present**

Studio presentations of design proposals for sound + city

Studio discussions of proposals

A few extra examples

assignment: Readings: Flusser, Schaeffer. Assign weekly studio presentations of sound works/histories

### **Week 5.**

#### **Sound Design: the recording studio**

First presentation of sound work/history

Discuss readings

Sound and image

Design Lesson: Signal – noise. Microphones, techniques

Design Lesson 2: Post-production techniques for spatiality: time, convolution, and the image

assignment: Create sound and image work. Write 1 page paper defining work.

## **Week 6.**

### **Sound + image + critique**

Second Studio presentation of sound work/history

Studio present sound and image work. Critique.

Discussion of designs for midterm critique. Works-in-progress.  
assignment: sound + city design prototype

## **Week 7.**

### **Midterm Critique**

Studio presents design and prototypes.

Guest critics to be announced.

assignment: redesign

## **Week 8.**

### **Noisy Networks**

Third studio presentation of sound work/history

Presentation: Noise, Radio, Telephony and Audio Networks  
Topics: Attali, Kahn, Artaud, Whitehead, Edison, Public Enemy,  
Shocklees, Matrix

Lesson: Design an a networked sound broadcast

Assignment: Create a networked sound work

## **Week 9.**

### **Music: Loops and clouds**

Fourth studio presentation of sound work/history

Present networked sound works

Presentation: works: 12 Tones, Gamelan, Reich, Xenakis, Marclay,  
Radiohead, Skream

Lesson: Looping systems

Assignment: Make a loop or a cloud. Draw it.

**Week 10.****Performativity and 'real-time'**

Fifth studio presentation of sound work/history

Presentation: Histories and strategies for sound and performance

Lesson: Create In-studio performance.

Assignment: Create a performance/broadcast/event based on your program.

**Week 11.****Flipping the everyday**

Sixth studio presentation of sound work/history

Presentation: Sound weaponry and Flipping the Everyday  
topics: Kittler, De Certeau, LRADs, Breughel, Microwave sound, Circuit benders

Lesson: In-studio circuit bend

Assignment: Redesign presentation

**Week 12.****Redesign Crits**

Seventh studio presentation of sound work/history

In-studio critique of redesign presentations I

Assignment: Redesign presentation

**Week 13.****Redesign Crits**

Final studio presentation of sound work/history

In-studio critique of redesign presentations II

Lesson: How to present works

Assignment: Prepare for final presentation

**Week 14.**

**Sound + City: Final Critique**

Guest Critics TBA.