

SPRING 2019 -- NYAP 499.a

New York Arts Program Seminar Music, Sound and Media

Principles of Music & Sound in Modern Media Arts

Overview

In the course of eight seminars we will explore a comprehensive awareness of sonic phenomenon to foster a new perception of media, while investigating the unique mechanics of human hearing as it's influenced by myriad cultural factors. As music and sound creators armed with this knowledge, we will research, compose and produce music and sound works utilizing these fundamental principles and seek means to broaden our appreciation, understanding and manipulation thereof, thus honing sharp critical listening, creative prowess and intellectual thought.

Students will engage in technical exercises and projects to improve their aural cognition and audio science in creative, modern practices. We will investigate acoustics, recording technology and music composition in the digital, social-media age with a focus on critical listening, improvisation, and the historical contexts of music and sound design styles. Students will engage in interdisciplinary dialogue to develop language and communication skills for professional collaborative work in music, sound, multimedia, and allied fields in New York City's vast tapestry of performing and studio arts alike.

Learning Objectives

1. Improve and develop new critical listening skills
2. Develop vocabulary to describe music and sound scientifically
3. Analyze music and sound from aesthetic, historical, and cultural perspectives
4. Acquire skills in audio manipulation and the fundamentals of music production
5. Understand how music and sound is utilized in narrative media
6. Discover how music and sound have a psychological impact on perception

Outcomes

1. The development of listening comprehension and analysis language to describe music and sound in the context of the creative process is a critical skill for engaging with other artists who work in music, film, dance, and audio/visual media.
2. Establish a daily practice to develop the art of sound organization. Students will create small pieces of work throughout the semester with the aim to cultivate a larger scale project.
3. Expansion of aesthetic taste, and the ability to debate the quality of work with reasonable, logical means.

Office Hours: Mondays 1-3pm

Assessments

Will be based on the following:

Meaningful participation in seminars and individual meetings
Final presentation of independent projects
Attendance and punctuality
Commitment to journal keeping
Evidence of musical & sonic exploration
Quality of critical thinking

Please note that NYAP Seminars have a non-traditional structure. Course credit and assessment are dependent on:

Seminar attendance (8 two-hour sessions)
Program Event attendance (5 two-hour events)
One-on-one meetings (4 minimum)
Writing Workshop (3 hours)
Midterm Review
Final Review
Independent NYC Visits* (2 minimum, per week)

*Independent visits can include a performance, lecture, artist talk, museum exhibit, reading

Grading for NYAP

NYAP 495 INTERNSHIP (3.25 credits) Grade*:

-- based on your evaluation and faculty contact with your sponsor

NYAP 499: SEMINAR (1) Grade*:

-- based on your attendance, meaningful participation, and work ethic for seminar assignments

NYAP490: JOURNAL/INDEPENDENT STUDY (0.25 credits) Grade*:

-- based on the quality and frequency of journal entries, and the breadth and quality of your final project

Reading

Students will be assigned reading according to his or her independent project, and for Seminar assignments, when applicable. See list at end of syllabus.

Journal

Students will be asked to attend shows, concerts, and other music-related events and spaces in New York City independently and keep a journal of your thoughts. This journal is a record of intellectual and creative experience and discoveries. It's not a agenda or a daily accounting, it's a valuable composition and artistic practice tool. Sketch down some names of artists, albums, concerts, poetic musings, lyrics, chords, or general artistic and creative ideas.

Independent Project

Based on the foundations of your journal entries, you will pursue a focused, supervised, open-ended independent project. Weekly progress will be expected and personal goals will be identified.

Important Notes

Be proactive. Ask your colleagues if they want to go to a concert or get feedback on your work. Ask your internship sponsor if you can try something. Do some research and spend time problem solving before asking for help. **If you don't know how to do something—Google it!**

Attendance to all seminars is mandatory. Do not be late. Smartphone use will not be tolerated. Use your journal to take notes. Meaningful participation in seminar discussions is also a key factor to final grading.

Communication

- Preferred method of communication is through [Slack](#).
- All phone calls must be scheduled in advance [here](#), unless in extremely urgent matters.
- Check your email regularly. Please respond to all emails, even if it's "Got it - Thanks!"
- All changes to internship schedule and description must be cleared with me.
- If things are not going well communicate them verbally or in writing where appropriate.