

MUH 7938: Music and the Senses

Syllabus Spring 2022

Professor: Sarah Politz, spolitz@ufl.edu

Course Time: Wednesdays 4:05-7:05 pm

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4-5 pm, by appointment

Course Description: This course explores the interdisciplinary field that has grown out of what has been termed the “sensory turn” in anthropology in the past several decades, which has impacted music studies more recently. This movement, which emphasizes the senses, bodily experience, and perception as primary for cultural analysis, has its roots in the philosophical tradition of phenomenology, particularly of Edmund Husserl and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. The sensory turn has had a growing influence on ethnographic practice in anthropology and ethnomusicology, as we will explore, especially through studies of dance, music perception, and attempts to decolonize our understanding of the senses.

Response Papers: Post a short, succinct response (about 250 words) to the course website by midnight on Sunday each week. Choose one or two of the readings from that week, and respond to them in the context of our ongoing discussions and/or your own research or experience.

Mini Sonic/Sensory Ethnography Project: Choose a musical or sonic site where you will conduct a mini-ethnography focusing on some aspect of the senses. Your site may be physical or virtual. You will take field notes, conduct interviews, possibly make audio or video recordings, and present your findings in a short, 10-minute, multimedia presentation to the class on **March 1**.

Final Paper: A research paper of about 15 pages on an aspect of music and the senses of your own choosing. Discuss possible paper topics early in the semester with Dr. Politz. Abstracts are due March 29. The final papers are due **April 26** by 5 p.m.

Grading: Weekly response papers 30%, Final paper and presentation 30%, attendance 10%, participation 10%, Mini ethnography project 20%

Grading Scale

A	94.00-100.00% of possible points		C	74.00-76.99%
A-	90.00-93.99%		C-	70.00-73.99%
B+	87.00-89.99%		D+	67.00-69.99%
B	84.00-86.99%		D	64.00-66.99%
B-	80.00-83.99%		D-	60.00-63.99%
C+	77.00-79.99%		E	< 60.00%

Outline of Class Work (all readings subject to change):

January 11 – Course Introduction

January 18 – Decolonizing the Sensorium

David Howes, *Sensual Relations : Engaging the Senses in Culture and Social Theory*, (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003), pp. 1-28.

David Howes, "Introduction: Empires of the Senses," in *Empire of the Senses: The Sensual Culture Reader*, edited by David Howes, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), pp. 1-17.

Tomie Hahn, *Sensational Knowledge: Embodying Culture Through Japanese Dance*, (Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2007), pp. 1-22.

Ronald Radano and Tejumola Olaniyan. "Introduction: Hearing Empire – Imperial Listening," in *Audible Empire: Music, Global Politics, Critique*

January 25 – Sensory Ethnography, Sonic Ethnography

*Discuss Mini-Ethnography ideas

Pink, Sarah. 2015, 2nd ed. "Principles for Sensory Ethnography" and "Preparing for Sensory Research" in *Doing Sensory Ethnography*. 25-70.

Porcello, Thomas, Louise Meintjes, Ana Maria Ochoa, and David W. Samuels. 2010. "The Reorganization of the Sensory World," *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 29:51-66.

Hannah Gould, et al. 2019. "An Interrogation of Sensory Anthropology of and in Japan," *Anthropological Quarterly*, 92(1):231-258.

February 1 – Phenomenology

Taylor Carman, *Merleau-Ponty*, (New York: Routledge, 2008), pp. 6-34; 76-80 (or to 89/beyond);

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, Translated by Donald A. Landes. (London and New York: Routledge, 2012 [1945]), pp lxxx-lxxxv; 13-27, 458-473

Harris Berger. 2020. "Phenomenological Approaches in the History of Ethnomusicology," *Oxford Handbooks Online*

February 8 – Phenomenology and Deconstruction

Safranski, Rüdiger. 1998. *Martin Heidegger: Between Good and Evil*, pp. 145-170.

Heidegger, Martin. 1962[1927] *Being and Time*, translated by John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson, pp. 51-63, 102-108; 284-290, 424-434.

Jacques Derrida. 1982 [1968] "Différance," in *Margins of Philosophy*, translated by Alan Bass. pp. 1-17.

Jussi Backman. 2012. "Logocentrism and the Gathering Λόγος: Heidegger, Derrida, and the Contextual Centers of Meaning," *Research in Phenomenology* 42, pp. 67-91.

February 15 - Music, the Senses, and Sound Studies

Samuels, D; L. Meintjes, A Ochoa, T Porcello. 2010. "Soundscapes: Toward a sounded anthropology," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 39 .329-345.

Ihde, Don 2012 [1977]. "The auditory dimension." *The Sound Studies Reader* [orig. *Listening and voice: A phenomenology of sound*. Athens: Ohio University Press.]

Ingold, Tim. 2007. "Against soundscape." In Carlyle, A. (ed.) *Autumn Leaves: Sound and the Environment in Artistic Practice*, Paris : Double Entendre.

Howes, David. 2019. "Embodiment and the Senses," in *The Routledge Companion to Sound Studies*, 24-34.

February 22 – Embodiment, Dance, and Ritual

Geurts, Kathryn. 2002. "Is There a Sixth Sense?" and "Toward an Understanding of Anlo Forms of Being-in-the-World," in *Culture and the Senses: Bodily Ways of Knowing in an African Community*.

Friedson, Steven. 1996. Preface, "Introduction: Ethnography as Possibility" and "In the Vimbuza Mode" in *Dancing Prophets*. xi-xvi, 1-8, 128-162.

Friedson, Steven. 2010. "Southern Lands," "Northern Gods," and "Where Divine Horsemen Ride," in *Remains of Ritual: Northern Gods in a Southern Land*, 1-12, 15-42.

Nicholas, Lorraine. 2018. "Memory, History, and the Sensory Body: Dance, Time, Identity," in *Rethinking Dance History: Issues and Methodologies*.

March 1 – Mini Sensory Ethnographies

March 8 – Music Perception

Becker, Judith. 2004. "Introduction" and "Deep Listeners," in *Deep Listeners: Music, Emotion, and Trancing*. 1-12, 45-68.

David Huron. *Sweet Anticipation: Music and the Psychology of Expectation*. The MIT Press, 2006, chapters 7 and 8 (pp. 101-141).

Ingrid Monson. "Hearing, Seeing, and Perceptual Agency." *Critical Inquiry* 34, no. 2 (2008): S36-S58.

Clarke, Eric. "Music Perception and Musical Consciousness." In *Music and Consciousness: Philosophical, Psychological, and Cultural Perspectives*. Edited by Clarke, David and Clarke, Eric. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Spring Break

March 17-18 SEMSEC Conference, University of Florida

March 22 - Sensory Ecologies

Eric Clarke, Alan E. Williams, and Dee Reynolds. 2018. "Musical Events and Perceptual Ecologies," *The Senses and Society*, 13(3):264-281.

Gibson, James J. *The Ecological Approach to Visual Perception*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1979, pp. 7-15; 33-44.

Clarke, Eric F. *Ways of Listening: An Ecological Approach to the Perception of Musical Meaning*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, 2005, pp. 3-47.

Iyer, Vijay. "Embodied Mind, Situated Cognition, and Expressive Microtiming in African-American Music." *Music Perception* 19, no. 3 (2002): 387–414.

March 29 – Affect

*Final paper abstracts due

Christabel Stirling 2018. "Sound, Affect, Politics," in the *Routledge Companion to Sound Studies*

Marie Thompson and Ian Biddle, eds. 2013. *Sound, Music, Affect: Theorizing Sonic Experience*

Daphne Brooks. 2013. "'Bring the Pain': Post-Soul Memory, Neo-Soul Affect, and Lauryn Hill in the Black Public Sphere." in *Taking It to the Bridge: Music as Performance*, eds. Nicholas Cook and Richard Pettingill.

Ana Hofman. 2015. "The Affective Turn in Ethnomusicology," *Музикологуја (Musicology)*, I(18):35-54.

Recommended but not required: Lawrence Grossberg. 2010. "Affect's Future: Rediscovering the Virtual in the Actual," in *The Affect Theory Reader*, eds. Gregory Seigworth, Melissa Gregg, et al.

April 5 – Sensing Race, Sensing Gender

Sachi Sekimoto and Christopher Brown. 2020. *Race and the Senses: The Felt Politics of Racial Embodiment*, introduction.

Mark M. Smith. 2015. "Making Sense of Race," in *The Auditory Culture Reader*, 2nd edition.

Eidsheim, Nina Sun. 2019. "The Acousmatic Question: Who is This?" in *The Race of Sound: Listening, Timbre, and Vocality in African American Music*.

April 12 – Music, the Senses, and Disability Studies

Geurts, Kathryn Linn. 2015. "53. Senses" in *Keywords for Disability Studies*.

Howe, Blake, et al. 2016. "Introduction: Disability Studies in Music, Music in Disability Studies," in *The Oxford Handbook of Music and Disability Studies*.

Holmes, Jessica. 2017. "Expert Listening Beyond the Limits of Hearing: Music and Deafness," *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, 70(1):171-220.

April 19 – Student presentations

Final papers due April 26 by 5 pm.

Class Policies

Please do not multitask during class, become distracted by your phone or other devices, browse the web, etc. You should arrive on time, and notify Dr. Politz if you need to be absent, late, or leave early.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

For UF grading policies, including grades and grade points, please see here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.).

Academic Resources:

Technical support (including Zoom and internet trouble), helpdesk.ufl.edu, 352-392-4357

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<https://career.ufl.edu/> ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#))

Office of Graduate Professional Development. Workshops and career advising on job searches, writing and research, personal and professional development for graduate students.
<http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/about-us/offices/division-of-graduate-student-affairs-dgsa/professional-development-ogpd/>

E-learning technical support (for Canvas), 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Wellness Resources:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.