

Listening Exercises Syllabus

Columbia GSAPP
Spring 2019

Professor: Daniel Perlin

How do we listen? What do we listen to? Why should we listen? When? How does a Drone listen? AI? How do we listen to bodies? What does it mean to listen to our echo chamber? How can we learn to listen to many? Can we listen badly?

Listening exercises are here to help you listen better to yourself, to an other, to many. We will use all forms of listening, from our ears, eyes, and all senses, to make new design work each class. In conjunction with this, we will look at new ways listening is enabled through new technologies. These and many questions will be addressed as we create new designs as exercises, creating new short micro-projects each week. We will share work with each other to help each other listen better. Like any muscle, like any skill, this course takes as a premise that we can learn to listen with more detail and care, alone and together. As part of the course, listening exercises are workshop sessions created to approach these questions and increase our abilities to listen better to ourselves, others and the worlds around us.

Each class will be structured as such: First part, a brief overview of the histories, trajectories and strategies of listening. Second part: Group and individual exercises. Readings and field research will be required weekly, and a final presentation may include a listening prototype. No previous experience required, and listening at an level or ability is acceptable

Week 1. Listen to Yourself(s)

Lecture: *Listening vs. hearing: Waves and Perception of Selves*

In class: Exercises 1 and 2

Assignment: Listening journals and Self Ecosystem Map

Texts from:

Zhuangzi

The Voices Within: The History and Science of How We Talk to Ourselves —Wellcome

John Cage 4'33" essays

Gramophone Film Typewriter—Kittler

Noise: towards a politics economy of music—Jacques Attali

Pauline Oliveiros

Week 2.

Listen To Others

Lecture: *Listening with your eyes*

In class: exercises 3 and 4
Assignment: Corporal behavioral mapping

Texts from:
Lacan
Brandon LaBelle acoustic territories
The Shape of Things--Wilem Flusser
IDEO

Week 3.

Listening to many

Lecture: *The Echo and Narcissus Chamber: Bad Listening*
In class: Listening exercises 5 and 6
Assignment: data mapping and visualization

Texts from:
Ovid
Tufte
Felton, Lupi, Thorpe
Open Data
EFF

Week 4:

Listen to design

Lecture: *Lonely AI: Always on and waiting*
In Class Exercises 7 and 8
Assignment: Chatbot

Texts:
Blade Runner 2049
Black Mirror Season 3-Dog
Minima Moralia- Adorno
Twitch: Google Home Seebots Chat

Week 5:

Interplanetary Listening

Lecture: *Sound and (outer) spaces*
In Class: Exercises 9 and 10
Assignment: Design Listening-- Final Proposal

Texts:
LIGO
Michelle Chion- Acousmetre

2001-Kubrick
The Matrix
NASA

Week 6:

Class Shares of Proposal

In Class Exercises 11 and 12

Assignment: Design Listening-- Final Design Prep

Week 7:

Final and Jury