

Day and time:

Monday, **weekly sessions: 4 pm – 6 pm** / Monday, **bi-weekly sessions: 4 pm – 7:30 pm**

Instructor: Anna von Hammerstein

Contact: TBC

Language Requirements: English B2, German A1/A2

Location: Hausvogteiplatz 5-7, 10117 Berlin, room: 0323-26

Course Description:

Berlin and its diverse sounds are the topic of this course. However, we will not try to reduce Berlin to a few characteristic sounds but rather develop a listening perspective to discover the city. Throughout the course students will have the opportunity to develop, sharpen and sensitize their hearing perception and thus discover their environment in a new way. During sound walks in different places across Berlin we will collect sounds by recording them or by writing listening journals. These collected sounds will be discussed in class. Additionally, readings from the interdisciplinary field of Sound Studies with a focus on research on urban sounds will be introduced. They form the basis for exercises, assignments and academic discussions in class. Questions of sound anthropology and ethnographic research will be prominently dealt with. A cross-section topic throughout the course deals with the notion of ‘self’ and ‘other’ – an issue worth discussing for short-term as well as for long-term dwellers in Berlin. The bilingual concept of the course is implemented through speaking as well as through writing exercises. Different group work formats and short presentations facilitate a active participation of each student in discussions and thus train verbal comprehension and expression skills in German. However, English is the lingua franca in class.

Students will:

- develop a perspective on Berlin that is different from mainstream narrations of the city
- sensitize their listening attention to environmental sounds and improve their understanding of sounds as a source of knowledge
- get an introduction to sonic anthropology and research methods from the field of sound studies (qualitative empirical)
- draw interdisciplinary connections to their own field of study
- explore the notion of sensory knowledge, its translation into language and its relation to scientific knowledge production
- reflect on cultural diversity in ways of listening, understanding and knowing and thus improve their inter-cultural understanding
- engage in scientific discussion based on sonic material as well as on scholarly readings
- read and discuss key texts concerning research on urban soundscapes in English
- gradually improve their German language skills by presenting their auditive experiences and reflections as well as discussions in a bilingual format

Course Assessment:

- 1) active participation in class, esp. in excursions, group works and discussions,
 - incl. bilingual presentations
- 2) preparation of each session as drafted in the course outline
 - read texts
 - summaries of read texts in German (¼ – ½ page)
 - discussion questions in English (min. 1 page)

- sound recordings: to be taken with a smart phone or other sound recorder
 - online research of sounds
 - short presentations of homework (bilingual)
- 3) continuous training of German terms frequently used in class
- 4) final essay (8-10 pages, English or bilingual): will build up throughout the course, **submission deadline: Feb. 16th 2018**; earlier submissions (from Feb. 1st onwards) are strongly encouraged as they offer students the opportunity to discuss their work in progress with the instructor in or immediately after the last session

All assignments must be completed to receive credit for the course.

Course Outline:

The course has 16 sessions (90 minutes).

NB: Depending on the content (excursions, workshops) some of the sessions will be combined in double-sessions (180 minutes).

Readings and assessment tasks will be provided through Moodle.

Session N° & Date	Session Content	Preparation/ Homework
1) 23/10/2017	Experiencing the Sonic (1) - introduction: listening, urban sounds research - group work, estimation German language level of all course participants	–
2) and 3) 30/10/2017 (double session: 4-7:30 pm)	Experiencing the Sonic (2) - introduction: soundwalk - excursion: soundwalk - discussion: Berlin sound experience	- read: Westerkamp 2007; Chion 2012
4) 06/11/2017	Intercultural Hearing (1) - students' presentations - discussion: hearing experiences and verbal descriptions of sounds (multilingual)	- record sound in Berlin + prepare short presentation - read: Meelberg & Cobussen 2011
5) 13/11/2017	Intercultural Hearing (2) - students' presentations - discussion: sound representations of places	- research sound recording from your home + prepare short presentation - written assessment: discussion question about sound maps - read: Schafer 2004, Noll 2017
6) 20/11/2017	Hearing: Ontological implications of a sensory experience (1) - group work, incl. presentations	- read: Ingold 2000, Ingold 2007 - written assessment: summary and discussion question
7) 27/11/2017	Hearing: Ontological implications of a sensory experience (2) - group work, incl. presentations	- read: McLuhan 2012, LaBelle 2012, Sterne 2012 - written assessment: summary and discussion question

8) and 9) 04/12/2017 (double session: 4-7:30 pm)	Berlin Soundwalk - excursion: guided soundwalk - discussion: soundwalk	- read: Kytö 2013 - written assessment: listening journal
10) 11/12/2017	City Atmospheres - group work, incl. presentations - discussion: hearing perception and atmospheres	- read: Thibaud 2003, Thibaud 2011, Chambers 2004 - written assessment: summary and discussion question
18/12/2017-01/01/2018 <i>no sessions</i>	–	–
11) 08/01/2018	Sonic Anthropology (1) - group work, incl. presentations - discussion: what and how can we learn about people from their sounds?	- read: Feld 2015, Cusack 2012, Wissmann 2014 - written assessment: summary and discussion question
12) 15/01/2018	Sonic Anthropology (2) - group work and discussion: German noise debate/ aircraft noise	- read: Stahl 2013 - research/ written assessment: listening journal
13) and 14) 22/01/2017 (double session: 4-7:30 pm)	Sounds of the Past - excursion: Berlin Wall Memorial - students' presentations - discussion: What do we learn about the past from historical sound recordings?	- research: historical sounds from Berlin + prepare short presentation - read: Bijsterveld 2013
15) 29/01/2017	Musicality of Urban Environmental Sounds - listening: soundscape composition - discussion: hearing the music of the environment	- listen/ watch: #klangberlins - read: Lane 2013 - written assessment: discussion question
05/02/2017 <i>no session</i>	–	–
16) 12/02/2017	- group work and discussion: sound branding of a city - questions concerning the final essay - course evaluation	- read: Urban 2016 - written assessment 1: summary - written assessment 2: abstract and outline of the final essay

Attendance Policy:

Attendance of 80% of all meetings is required. If you stay absent the instructor needs to be informed in advance. For missed sessions make-up tasks can be arranged. Please contact the instructor!

Plagiarism Policy:

The usage of another person's words, thoughts, ideas, judgments, images or data without proper credit constitutes plagiarism. The penalty for this is failure of the course.

Bibliography:

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