

The Ohio State University
School of Music
Spring Quarter 2012
Seminar in Musicology (MUS 950.01)

EXISTENTIAL ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Instructor: Ryan Skinner
Hours: WF 2:30-3:48
Office: Hughes 101c
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DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will consider music and, more broadly, sound as fundamental to the human condition, across multiple scales of space and time and in a variety of social and cultural contexts. Building on the insights of existentialism, post-structuralism, and phenomenology, we will explore the emergent and irreducible tensions – of freedom and necessity, publicity and privacy, individuality and collectivity, ethics and morality, mimesis and alterity, etc. – through which human being-in-the-world unfolds and, with an ear toward aurality, resounds. Intended to both deepen and expand the field of ethnomusicology, we will examine theoretical texts infrequently employed in the anthropology of music (from Sartre, De Beauvoir, Arendt, Lefebvre, Bourdieu, Kittler, among others) as well as new conceptual orientations from within the discipline itself (in the recent work of Berger, Feld, Fox, Pilzer, and Hahn). Topics and themes to be considered include:

- the aesthetics of existential ethics
- the modalities of human being-in-the-world
- the rhythms of everyday life
- encounters with new media and technology
- embodiment and affect
- selfhood and personhood
- acoustemology of place
- violence and reconciliation
- precarity and livability

ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION

20% Class Presentations
30% Weekly Response Papers
20% Abstract and Bibliography
30% Term Paper

GRADING SCALE

A = Excellent; B = Good; C = Fair; D = Poor; F = Failing. Minuses and Pluses will reflect incremental adjustments (e.g. B+ = Very Good)

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 33356-5-487).

(http://studentaffairs.osu.edu_for_students/csc.asp).

DISABILITY SERVICES

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Ave.; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is a good virtue and is expected. You are allowed two unexcused absences, before the automatic lowering of your grade. Your grade will be affected by your attendance and participation in class.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at SBX)

Arendt, Hannah. 1998. [1958]. *The Human Condition (2nd Edition)*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Berger, Harris M. 2009. *Stance: ideas about emotion, style, and meaning for the study of expressive culture*. Middletown, CN: Wesleyan University Press.

de Beauvoir, Simone. 2000 [1948]. *The Ethics of Ambiguity*. Kensington, UK: Citadel.

Hahn, Tomie. 2007. *Sensational knowledge: embodying culture through Japanese dance*. Middletown, Conn: Wesleyan University Press.

Feld, Steven. 2012. *Jazz cosmopolitanism in Accra: a memoir of five musical years in Ghana*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Fox, Aaron. 2004. *Real Country: Music and Language in Working-Class Culture*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Lefebvre, Henri. 2004. *Rhythmanalysis: Space, Time, and Everyday Life*. London: Continuum.

Pilzer, Joshua D. 2011. *Hearts of pine: songs in the lives of three Korean survivors of the Japanese "comfort women"*. New York: Oxford University Press.

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK ONE: First Thoughts

March 28

Deranty, Jean-Philippe, "Existentialist Aesthetics", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2009 Edition)*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL =

<<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2009/entries/aesthetics-existentialist/>>.

Jackson, Michael. 2008. "Preface," in *Existential Anthropology: Events, Exigencies and Effects*. New York: Berghahn Books.

March 30

Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. 2002 [1962]. "The World as Perceived: Other Selves and the Human World," *Phenomenology of Perception*. London & New York City: Routledge.

Sarte, Jean Paul. 2004. "Selections from *Being and Time, Existentialism and Human Emotions, & Being and Nothingness*," in *Basic Writings of Existentialism*, Gordon Marino (ed.), New York City, NY: The Modern Library.

Suggested:

Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. 2004 [1948]. *The World of Perception*. New York, NY: Routledge.

WEEK TWO: Existential Ethics & Aesthetics

April 4

de Beauvoir, Simone. 2000 [1948]. *The Ethics of Ambiguity*. Kensington, UK: Citadel.

April 6

Braidotti, Rosi. 2006. "Prologue and Chapter One," in *Transpositions: On Nomadic Ethics*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Shannon, Jonathan. 2004. "The Aesthetics of Spiritual Practice and the Creation of Moral and Musical Subjectivities in Aleppo, Syria," *Ethnology* 43 (4): 381-391

Throop, Jason C. 2009. "'Becoming Beautiful in the Dance': On the Formation of Ethical Modalities of being in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia." *Oceania*. 79 (3): 179-201.

WEEK THREE: Modes of Being

April 11

Arendt, Hannah. 1998. [1958]. "Introduction," "Prologue" and "Chapters 1-4," in *The Human Condition (2nd Edition)*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

April 13

Arendt, Hannah. 1998. [1958]. "Chapter 5-6," *The Human Condition*

WEEK FOUR: Space, Subjectivity, and the Everyday

April 18

Lefebvre, Henri. 2004. *Rhythmanalysis: Space, Time, and Everyday Life*. London: Continuum.

Edensor, Tim. 2010. "Introduction: Thinking about rhythm and space," in *Geographies of Rhythm: Nature, Place, Mobilities and Bodies*, Tim Edensor (ed.), Farnham, UK: Ashgate.

April 20

Bourdieu, Pierre. 2000. "Chapter 4 & 6" in *Pascalian Meditations*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Suggested:

DeNora, Tia. 2000. "Music as a Technology of Self," in *Music in Everyday Life*. Cambridge, NY: Cambridge University Press.

WEEK FIVE: Mediating Difference

April 25

Kittler, Friedrich. 1999. "Gramophone," in *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*. Palo Alto: Stanford University Press.

Weidman, Amanda. 2003. "Guru and Gramophone: Fantasies of Fidelity and Modern Technologies of the Real," *Public Culture* 15 (3): 453-476.

April 27

Taussig, Michael. 1993. "Chapters 1-4," Chapters 14-16," in *Mimesis and Alterity: A Particular History of the Senses*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Suggested:

Feld, Steven & Donald Brenneis. 2004. "Doing Anthropology in Sound," *American Ethnologist* 31 (4): 461-474.

Feld, Steven & Aaron Fox, Thomas Porcello, and David Samuels. 2004. "Vocal Anthropology: From the Music of Language to the Language of Song," in Alessandro Duranti (ed.), *A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology*, pgs. 321-346, Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Hirschkind, Charles. 2001. "The ethics of listening: cassette-sermon audition in contemporary Egypt." *American Ethnologist*. 28(3): 623-649.

Larkin, Brian. 2008. "Degraded Images, Distorted Sounds: Nigerian Video and the Infrastructure of Piracy," in *Signal and Noise: Media, Infrastructure, and Urban Culture in Nigeria*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Massumi, Brian. 2002. "On the Superiority of the Analog," in *Parables of the Virtual: Movement, Affect, Sensation*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Sterne, Jonathan. 2003. *The audible past: cultural origins of sound reproduction*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Tedlock, Dennis. 1983. "Phonography and the Problem of Time in Oral Narrative Events," in *The Spoken Word and the Work of Interpretation*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

WEEK SIX: Phenomenological Ethnomusicology

May 2

Duranti, Alessandro. 2010. "Husserl, intersubjectivity and anthropology." *Anthropological Theory* 10 (1-2) (March 1): 16 -35.

Clarke, David. 2012. "Music, Phenomenology, Time Consciousness: Meditations After Husserl," in *Music and Consciousness: Philosophical, Psychological, and Cultural Perspectives*, David Clarke & Eric Clarke (eds.), London: Oxford University Press.

- Berger, Harris M. 2009. "Preface, Chapter 1 & 2," in *Stance: Ideas about Emotion, Style, and Meaning for the Study of Expressive Culture*. Middletown, CN: Wesleyan University Press.
- Schutz, Alfred. 1964 [1951]. "Making music together: A study in social relationship," in *Collected Papers II: Studies in Social Theory*. A. Brodersen (ed.), The Hague, the Netherlands: Martinus Nijhoff; 159-178.

Suggested:

- Jackson, Michael. 1996. "Introduction," in *Things As They Are: New Directions in Phenomenological Anthropology*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

May 4

- Berger, Harris M. 2009. "Chapter 3 & 4," in *Stance: Ideas about Emotion, Style, and Meaning for the Study of Expressive Culture*.

Suggested:

- Porcello, Thomas. 1998. "'Tails Out': Social Phenomenology and the Ethnographic Representation of Technology in Music-Making". *Ethnomusicology: Journal of the Society for Ethnomusicology*. 42 (3): 485-510.
- Titon, Jeff Todd. 1985. "Stance, Role, and Identity in Fieldwork among Folk Baptists and Pentecostals". *American Music*. 3 (1): 16-24.
- Schutz, Alfred. "Fragments on the Phenomenology of Music" [1944]. In *In Search of Musical Method*. Ed. F. Joseph Smith. New York: Gordon & Breach 1976, 5-72; rpt. as "Fragments Toward a Phenomenology of Music." In his *Collected Papers IV*. Ed. Helmut Wagner and George Psathas with Fred Kersten. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1996, 243-75.

→ **Abstract and Annotated Bibliography Due**

WEEK SEVEN: Embodied Ethnomusicology

May 9

- Hahn, Tomie. 2007. *Sensational knowledge: embodying culture through Japanese dance*. Middletown, Conn: Wesleyan University Press.

May 11

- Connerton, Paul. "Bodily Practices," in *How Societies Remember*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- Csordas, Thomas. 1995. "Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology," *Ethnos* 18 (1): 5-47.

Suggested:

- Geurts, Kathryn Linn. "Consciousness as 'Feeling in the Body': A West African Theory of Embodiment, Emotion and the Making of Mind." In *Empire of the Senses: The Sensual Culture Reader*. David Howes (ed.). Oxford; New York: Berg, 2005. 164-178.
- Csordas, Thomas. "Somatic Modes of Attention." *Body/Meaning/Healing*. 58-87; 241-259. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002.

WEEK EIGHT: Existential Ethnography (1): Personhood and Place

May 16

Fox, Aaron. 2004. "Prelude, Chapter 1-5" in *Real Country: Music and Language in Working-Class Culture*. Durham: Duke University Press.

May 18

Fox, Aaron. 2004. "Chapters 6-9" in *Real Country*

WEEK NINE: Existential Ethnography (2): Crisis and Catharsis

May 23

Pilzer, Joshua D. 2011. *Hearts of Pine: Songs in the Lives of Three Korean Survivors of the Japanese "Comfort Women"*. New York: Oxford University Press.

May 25

Luker, Morgan J. 2007. "Tango Renvación: On the uses of music history in post-crisis Argentina." *Latin American Music Review*.

Gauthier Ochoa, Ana Maria, and George Yudicé. 2002. "The Latin American Music Industry in an era of Crisis." *The Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity Division of Arts and Cultural Enterprise: Unesco, Paris* (November).

Skinner, Ryan Thomas. Forthcoming. "Artists, Music Piracy, and the Crisis of Political Subjectivity in Contemporary Mali." *Anthropological Quarterly*.

Suggested:

Wilce, James. 2004. "To "speak beautifully" in Bangladesh: subjectivity as Pāgalāmi," in JH Jenkins, RJ Barrett (eds.), *Schizophrenia, Culture, and Subjectivity: The Edge of Experience*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.

WEEK TEN: Existential Ethnography (3): An Acoustemology of Place

May 30

Feld, Steven. 2012. "Opus through Fourth Chorus (xi – 198)" in *Jazz Cosmopolitanism in Accra: A Memoir of Five Musical Years in Ghana*. Durham: Duke University Press.

June 1

Feld, Steven. 2012. "Head Again through Horn Backgrounds (199-298)" in *Jazz Cosmopolitanism in Accra*

Suggested:

Feld, Steven. 1996. "Waterfalls of song: an acoustemology of place resounding in Bosavi, Papua New Guinea," in Feld, Steven, and Keith H. Basso (eds), *Senses of place*. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press.

Samuels, D., Meintjes, L, Ochoa, A.M., Porcello, T. 2010. "Soundscapes: Towards a Sounded Anthropology" *Annual Review of Anthropology* 39: 329-345.

FINALS WEEK

→ Final Papers Due

OTHER ETHNOGRAPHIES IN EXISTENTIAL/PHENOMENOLOGICAL (ETHNO)MUSICOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

- Becker, Judith O. 2004. *Deep listeners: music, emotion, and trancing*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Berger H. 1999. *Metal, Rock, Jazz: Perception and Phenomenology of Musical Experience*. Hanover, NH: Wesleyan Univ. Press.
- Biehl, João Guilherme. 2005. *Vita: life in a zone of social abandonment*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Brinner, Benjamin Elon. 2009. *Playing across a divide: Israeli-Palestinian musical encounters*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Chernoff, John Miller. 1979. *African rhythm and African sensibility: aesthetics and social action in African musical idioms*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Csordas T. 1994. *The Sacred Self: A Cultural Phenomenology of Charismatic Healing*. Berkeley: Univ. Calif. Press.
- Downey G. 2005. *Learning Capoeira: Lessons in Cunning from an Afro-Brazilian Art*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press.
- Dent, Alexander Sebastian. 2009. *River of tears: country music, memory, and modernity in Brazil*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Feld, Steven. 1982. *Sound and sentiment: birds, weeping, poetics, and song in Kaluli expression*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Gaunt, Kyra Danielle. 2006. *The games black girls play: learning the ropes from Double-dutch to Hip-hop*. New York: New York University Press.
- Geurts K. 2002. *Culture and the Senses: Bodily Ways of Knowing in an African Community*. Berkeley: Univ. Calif. Press.
- Hanks WF. 1990. *Referential Practice: Language and Lived Space Among the Maya*. Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press.
- Meintjes, Louise. 2003. *Sound of Africa!: making music Zulu in a South African studio*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Muller, Carol Ann, and Sathima Bea Benjamin. 2011. *Musical echoes: South African women thinking in jazz*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Jackson, Michael. 1995. *At Home in the World*. Durham, NC: Duke Univ. Press.
- Jenkins JH, Barrett RJ, eds. 2004. *Schizophrenia, Culture, and Subjectivity: The Edge of Experience*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press.
- Lester R. 2005. *Jesus in Our Wombs: Embodying Modernity in a Mexican Convent*. Berkeley: Univ. Calif. Press
- Lucht H. 2008. *Darkness before daybreak existential reciprocity in the lives and livelihoods of migrant West African fishermen*. PhD thesis. Dep. Anthropol., Univ. Copenhagen
- Mittermaier A. 2010. *Dreams that Matter: Egyptian Landscapes of the Imagination*. Berkeley: Univ. Calif. Press.
- Parish S. 1994. *Moral Knowing in a Hindu Sacred City*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press
- Pinto S. 2008. *Where There is No Midwife: Birth and Loss in Rural India*. Oxford: Berghahn.
- Shannon, Jonathan. 2006. *Among the Jasmine Trees: Music and Modernity in Contemporary Syria*. Middleton: Wesleyan University Press.
- Scheper-Hughes N. 1993. *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. Berkeley: Univ. Calif. Press.
- Stewart, Kathleen. 2007. *Ordinary Affects*. Durham: Duke University Press.

- Stoller P. 1995. *Embodying Colonial Memories: Spirit Possession, Power, and the Hauka in West Africa*. New York: Routledge.
- Stokes, Martin. 2010. *The republic of love: cultural intimacy in Turkish popular music*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Taussig, Michael. 2004. *My Cocaine Museum*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Taylor, Julie. 1998. *Paper Tangos*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Throop, C. Jason. 2010. *Suffering and sentiment exploring the vicissitudes of experience and pain in Yap*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Turino, Thomas. 2008. *Music as social life: the politics of participation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Wacquant L. 2003. *Body and Soul: Notebooks of an Apprentice Boxer*. Oxford Univ. Press.
- Weidman, Amanda J. 2006. *Singing the classical, voicing the modern: the postcolonial politics of music in South India*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- White, Bob W. 2008. *Rumba rules: the politics of dance music in Mobutu's Zaire*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Winkelman M. 2000. *Shamanism: The Neural Ecology of Consciousness and Healing*. Westport, CT: Bergin and Garvey.
- Zigon J. 2010a. *HIV is God's Blessing: Rehabilitating Morality in Neoliberal Russia*. Berkeley: Univ. Calif. Press.
- Zigon J. 2010b. *Making the New Post-Soviet Person: Moral Experience in Contemporary Moscow*. Leiden/Boston: Brill.