Course Description:
This course will extend our discussions of mediation and representation from the Fall and Winter quarters, but it will locate these broader discussions within issues that are specific to sound. Although music will be a significant part of our discussions, we will begin with a couple of simple questions: what, specifically, is sound? How can we describe and discuss sound as an object, and how can we think about listening as a unique sensory and cognitive activity? From there, our discussions will move in several different directions: to the voice, to the histories of (and histories within) sound and music, to sound technology within film and recording, and to the specificity of our own practices of listening and consumption in the MP3 and the album.

Course Texts (available at the Seminary Co-op):
Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy from the Spirit of Music* (Vintage)
William Blake, *Songs of Innocence* (Dover)
  *Songs of Experience* (Dover)

Schedule

What is Sound?
3/28: Luciano Berio, *Sequenza No. 3 for Voice*
3/30: Luigi Russolo, “Art of Noises”
  Friedrich Kittler, from *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*

Silence, Sound, and Technology
4/6: Pierre Schaffer, "Acousmatics"; Steve Reich: "Music as a Gradual Process" and
  *Come Out* (recording)
4/7: Workshop with Nicole Mitchell from 12-2 (location TBA)
4/8: Performance: Nicole Mitchell's Black Earth Ensemble, 7:30-9:30pm, Logan Center

The Voice
4/11: Roland Barthes "The Grain of the Voice"
4/13: TBA

The Power of Sound: Nietzsche
4/18: Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*
4/20: Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*
4/21: Essay 1 Due

The Power of Sound: Nietzsche and Du Bois
4/25: Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*
4/28: **Film Screening:** *Gimme Shelter* (dir. Maysles Brothers, 1970)

**Film, Sound, and Music**
5/2: W. E. B. Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folk; Gimme Shelter*
5/4: *Gimme Shelter*

**Songs**
5/9: William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*
5/11: William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*
5/12: **Essay 2 Due**

**Recording the Album**
5/16: Jonathan Sterne, "The MP3 as Cultural Artifact"; Album TBA
5/18: Album TBA

**The Album/Film Sound**
5/23: Album TBA
5/25: Maddin, *Brand Upon the Brain!*

5/30: Maddin, *Brand Upon the Brain!*

6/6: **Final Essay Due**