Course Description
Was sound art born when Luigi Russolo, Futurist author of The Art of Noise, designed and implemented his intonarumori? Or perhaps when John Cage questioned the fundamental notion of music with his infamous 4’ 33”? Or did sound art come into being after Robert Morris created arguably the first sound sculpture, Box With the Sound of Its Own Making? Or was sound art conjured up in the same year as Morris’ Box—1961—by Yoko Ono and her instruction-piece, Voice Piece for Soprano? Sound Art is a contentious term with a much-argued history. This studio art course is less concerned with lineage or birthright than with examining the many ways in which individuals have explored sound as a medium for creative inquiry. In order to examine this medium, students enrolled in this course will engage with a wide array of sonic art: experimental music, sound installation, performance, field recording, and more.

Course Structure
Each week will often be divided between a session concerned primarily with theory and a session devoted to practice. The first session of each week will consist of reading discussions, listening, viewing videos, considering objects, and making sounds. The second session of each week will consist of practical engagement with the technology of sound production towards the realization of critically aware projects. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their comprehension of course materials, attendance and preparation, critical engagement with ideas in the course, and the ability to synthesize key issues developed throughout the semester.

Course Objectives
Students who successfully complete this course will learn how to employ the sonic arts in their own studio practices toward the creation of critically engaged and historically aware works of art. Students will also become conversant in the use of audio technologies, which include, but are not limited to working with microphones, loudspeakers and mixers;

Learning Outcomes
This course will introduce students to the history and practice of Sound Art. Special attention will be given to theoretical concerns as they relate to both music and visual art. Students will also learn, through the execution of creative assignments, various technologies related to sound art in practice. Each week will be roughly divided between a session concerned primarily with theory and listening and a session devoted to practice. We will execute many projects in groups or as a collective.

Required materials: journal, materials to build 2 contact microphones (2 piezo discs, 2 mono ¼” plugs, 5+ feet of single conductor, shielded microphone cable), 1 or more pair of surface transducers, speaker wire, 1 or more pair of small loudspeakers, 1 pair of decent headphones, 8+ GB SD card, external hard drive, CVAD sculpture shop card.

Online resources: www.ubu.com
http://www.onelonelypixel.org/soundart.html

Teaching Philosophy
You will get out of this course what you put into it. This means that you must accept the challenge of taking responsibility for your own success. My role is to provide motivation in the form of a grade; historical and theoretical context; guidance with regards to the usage of the tools introduced to complete each project; and feedback as you are in the process of creating your projects and during the final critique for each project. However, you must attend all class sessions, complete all projects as assigned, and make the individual effort to master the digital studio art techniques and concepts presented during the course. This course will be challenging--for some of you this will be the first time you are engaging with these tools, histories, theories and concepts.

Course Requirements and Classroom Behavior
You are expected to be prepared for class. This means being prepared to participate in discussions, ask questions about content presented during lectures and being pro-active about project deadlines. Reading unrelated materials, excessive talking to neighbors, and any kind of phone use are all unacceptable during class time. This activity will be noted and reflected in your grade.

Turn in assignments on time. Late assignments will be graded, but not critiqued. Late assignments will be docked a full letter grade for each class day they are late. Excessive absences and late arrival to class will be noted and reflected in your grade. Participate consistently and thoughtfully in all class discussions and critiques, especially for those of which are not your own. This is part of your participation grade.
Respect your peers’ opinions, orientations, histories, beliefs, and experiences. Pay attention, ask questions and work hard.

I am perfectly amenable to you contacting me by email. However, when you send me (or any other faculty) an email, please include some form of salutation. For example, you might write me:

ASTU 4450.501 Topics in New Media Art Spring 2018
Hello Martin, (Professor/Mr. whatever is comfortable for you)

I am curious about such and such subject matter discussed today in class and where I might find more information.

Thank you,
Deborah Fort

Professionalism in email exchanges goes a long way. Remember this for the future.

GRADING
Students will be evaluated on the basis of completed projects (60%), attendance (20%) and participation (20%).

A= Superior. The grade of A indicates that work is superlative and surpasses expectations for the assignment, attendance is exemplary and the student participates in discussions in a manner that is respectful toward fellow students and which contributes to productive class discussions.
B= Above Average. The grade of B indicates that work is extraordinary and goes beyond the minimal requirements of an assignment. Attendance and participation are exemplary.
C= Average. The grade of C indicates that work is completed as assigned and submitted by deadline. Attendance and participation are lackluster.
D= Below Average. The grade of D indicates that work is completed, but is not completed as assigned. Attendance and participation are poor.
F= Fail. The grade F indicates that work is not completed as assigned according to deadline and that attendance and participation are minimal.

NEW MEDIA ART MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the New Media Art program at the University of North Texas is to cultivate new methods of performance and media art practices in contemporary art. Through creative and critical inquiry, we emphasize artistic excellence, interdisciplinary learning, socially engaged practices, and welcome collaboration.
We see our mission as the study and practice of visual culture, past and present, in order to understand how the convergence of performance, storytelling, and media can illuminate and expand, or conceal and limit the worlds they represent. Finally, we recognize that example is the best teacher and strive through our own creative research to embody the values we wish to impart. Pursuing research and creative opportunities, both locally and internationally, we draw upon and engage with the current critical discourse around Media and Performance Art.
This mission is fulfilled:
• Through innovative active learning curricula that contributes toward and engages with current practices and theoretical structures
• By continually investigating emerging media and technologies, as well as traditional approaches, as a way to open new channels of research and practice
• Through a belief that diversity—in background, status, culture, and viewpoint—is essential to a vital and creative community
• By expecting academic excellence as a fundamental part of a professional education in the visual arts
• Through a commitment toward rich engagement within our communities through community-based learning experiences and service-related activities
• By fostering an intellectual community within which experimentation is key

ATTENDANCE
You are allowed only THREE unexcused absences. After the FOURTH absence your grade will drop a full letter for each subsequent absence. If you miss class it is your responsibility to acquire the information you missed on the day you were absent. If you are aware that you will be absent prior to the date of an absence you must notify me. Excused absences are granted in the case of illness accompanied by a doctor's note and documented personal and/or family emergency. Attend class on time. Tardiness or lateness is considered to be 10 minutes after the beginning of class. TWO late arrivals equals 1 absence.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
In order to provide a campus environment that is conductive to academic endeavor and growth, the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline provides regulations and guidelines governing student behavior. The code provides penalties for misconduct, including academic dishonesty, which includes all forms of cheating and plagiarism, including attempts to circumvent attendance procedures. The term cheating includes, but is not limited to a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; or d) any other act that is designed to give a student an unfair advantage. This policy protects honest students from unfair competition with dishonest students who seek to gain advantages by cheating. Students who become aware of suspicious activities should notify me as soon as possible. Acts of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of ‘F’ in the course as well as disciplinary action.

UNT PLAGIARISM POLICY
Plagiarism is a serious violation of UNT’s code of academic conduct. The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, Policy Manual, Graduate Catalog, and Undergraduate Catalog explain specific policies, penalties, and the appeals process. The UNT Policy on Academic Misconduct provides definitions of plagiarism and states that the instructor can assign penalties for violations of the policy.

The term plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Plagiarism also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

The UNT policy further states that all students:
are responsible for making themselves aware of the definitions and implications of academic misconduct. For further information on academic misconduct, penalties and appeal procedures, the student should refer to the "Code of Student Conduct and Discipline."

Penalties are assigned by instructors and can range from reducing the grade for a test or assignment to revoking an academic degree already granted.

DISABILITY STATEMENT
The College of Visual Art and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You may also call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

COURSE RISK FACTOR
This course recognizes that there are certain risks inextricably associated with certain activities within the lab, and categories are assigned to those risk factors. Working with computers in a lab environment such as this class is considered a category 2 risk. I ask every student to be especially mindful of these risks. Be concerned for your safety and the safety of those around you, specifically as it relates to how you use your computer equipment.

BUILDING EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
In case of an emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of a tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related severity, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your faculty and act accordingly.

CENTER FOR STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See www.unt.edu/csrr for further information. The faculty retains the right to change the syllabus with or without notice.

FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) (UNDERGRADUATES)
- A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in
addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per semester. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose financial aid eligibility.

- If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so has the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit [http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap](http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap) for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with your CMHT academic advisor or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

**DISCLAIMER:** I reserve the right to change the syllabus and schedule at any time. It is your responsibility to be aware of these changes, either by attending each class session or communicating with your fellow students.

**AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT**

"The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at [www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda), and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

Blackboard
Make sure that you can access Blackboard Learn System and that you are enrolled correctly in your course! Email your instructor immediately if you are not correctly enrolled. Your UNT email address will be the ONLY ONE used for communication with the instructor. Make sure that is working fine and check it often for announcements.

**BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH & SAFETY /STUDIO RULES**

1. Always be respectful of University Property, New Media technology and facilities, your colleagues, and the work of your peers.
2. If ever you feel you may need assistance moving, lifting, hanging, drilling, cutting, etc., ask someone for help before attempting the action by yourself. If you don’t know how to use something, ask. Part of a successful art making community is a willingness to assist fellow artists.
3. Practice common sense and always be aware of your surroundings. Even if you are not working with something dangerous, someone around you may be.
Wear appropriate safety equipment and clothing if you are using or around power tools, heavy objects, chemicals, dust, fumes, etc. Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry when using power tools. Closed toe shoes should be worn during construction and installation of work. Wear a respirator if you are working with any noxious fumes (smoke, spray paint, resin, etc.)

Paint, chemicals, dyes, and oil must be disposed of by UNT Risk Management Services. Do not pour any of these items onto the ground or down a drain.

No food or drink around or near New Media studio or classroom computers. Spills may damage computer hardware and greasy keyboards and mice are gross. Always clean up after yourself before leaving the studio or classroom.

If multiple people are using an item that comes in close contact to the body (VR headset, microphone, mask, etc.), take proper precautions to minimize the transfer of contagions. Utilize disinfecting wipes, disposable face masks, etc. to help keep yourself and your peers healthy.

Be diligent in protecting your privacy and data. Log out of email and social media accounts when you log in on shared computers. If you notice a colleague forgot to log out of an acct, log out for them. Make sure to back up all of your project data. If you use shared data storage device (SD card, Camera’s internal HD, Flash Drive, etc.) delete your data off the device before returning it.

If you check out New Media equipment, technology, or media, you alone are responsible for the care and safe return of that item. If the item is damaged, lost, or stolen, you will be held financially or academically liable for the repair or replacement.

NEW MEDIA CHECKOUT POLICY

Currently, Equipment Checkout is on a first come, first served basis. Depending on the course/s you are enrolled in, some of the equipment might not be available to you or only available to be used in the Lab, Classroom, or Cave.

Equipment can be checked out for exactly 3 days (72 hours) from the time of checkout. For example, if an item is checked out at 3:23pm on Monday it is due no later than 3:23pm Thursday of that same week.

Because the equipment is shared across all New Media Courses, returning equipment late is extremely disrespectful to your fellow classmates and the New Media Program as a whole. Please be very diligent about returning your equipment on time. If tardiness becomes excess you will lose all privileges to check out New Media equipment.

If any equipment is damaged, lost, or stolen while checked out under your name, you are responsible for the repair or replacement of that equipment. A hold will be placed on your academic record (and you may receive a grade of “Incomplete” in any New Media courses in which you are enrolled) until the repair or replacement has been made.

The ‘Cave’ black box space (Hickory 173) is available to checkout for installation, performance and documentation. To check out the space, you must first request a time slot from the New Media Technician or one of the New Media Student Assistants. After the time slot is approved, one of the New Media Staff Members will grant you access to the space.
The 'Cave' will be inspected before and after each reservation. The person whose name the reservation was made under will be held fully responsible for any activity that happens in the space during that time.

New Media Technician:
Zak Loyd (Zachary.Loyd@unt.edu)

New Media Student Assistants:
CJ Porras (Christopher.Porras@my.unt.edu)
Alexander Villanueva (Alexander.Villanueva@my.unt.edu)

Projects and topics of inquiry
1. Sound poetry and language
2. Hidden sounds
3. Spatiality and interactivity
4. Systems
5. Final

*Note that due to the nature of this course and the fact there are many students enrolled I will require you to form yourselves into ensembles as much as possible.

Schedule

Week 1 January 16/18
Introduction/sound poetry, language, performance

Week 2 January 23/25
Proper care and feeding of audio technology/snort, grunt, echolalia, glossolalia

Week 3 January 30/February 1
Performance and critique

Week 4 February 6/8
Contact mic building demo/transducers as creative tools

Week 5 February 13/15
Discovering and recording sounds with your contact mic

Week 6 February 20/22
Studio: recording, editing

Week 7 February 27/March 1
Critique

Week 8 March 6/8
Spatiality/interactivity

Week 9 March 13/15
Spring Break: no class
Week 10  March 20/22  
Spatiality/Interactivity continued

Week 11  March 27/29  
Systems: hierarchical and non-hierarchical scoring methods/graphic notation

Week 12  April 3/5  
Systems: cybernetics, recursion and the art of letting go

Week 13  April 10/12  
Final project modeling session #1/Systems: indeterminacy

Week 14  April 17/19  
Studio time/final project modeling session #2/in progress presentations

Week 15  April 24/26  
Studio time

Week 16  May 1/3  
Final performance

Reading Schedule
January 18  
Sound Art, Art, and Music, Douglas Kahn, 2006
& History of Sound Art Timeline  
(with regards to the Timeline, please choose one or two people or groups you find particularly intriguing and conduct a few minutes of research on them in order to pose questions during class)

January 23  
Text Sound Art: A Survey, Richard Kostelanetz, 1977

March 27  
Treatise, Cornelius Cardew, 1967

April 10  
An Anthology of Chance Music Operations, Jackson MacLow and LaMonte Young, editors.

*other readings will be assigned as necessary
LIABILITY RELEASE (REQUIRED)
I understand that there will be some danger in connection with my participation in this New Media Art studio class because certain injuries may occur in carrying out these activities. After good and valuable consideration, I assume responsibility for all possible injuries resulting from my participation and hereby voluntarily agree that in the event of any accident, injury, loss of property, or other difficulty incidental to the activities or transportation to and from the activities, I will not make any claim of any kind against UNT or its agents, employees and representatives and/or students, and agree to hold said UNT, its employees and representatives and/or students harmless from any and all liability and legal responsibility. I recognize that I alone am responsible for my safety and health and based on my present knowledge of the correct methods and being of legal and adult age, I accept the responsibilities and possible injuries involved in these activities. I further agree to become familiar with the rules and regulations of UNT concerning student conduct and to not violate said rules or any directive or instruction made by the person or persons in charge of said activities and I will assume the complete risk of any activity done in violation of any rule or directive or instruction.
I understand that I am urged by UNT to obtain adequate health and accident insurance.

BACK SYLLABUS CONTRACT AGREEMENT: ASTU 4450 Spring 2018

Printed name______________________________

Signature______________________________________

Date__________________________________________

ASTU 4450.501 Topics in New Media Art Spring 2018
A parent or legal guardian must sign for persons under age 18.

I, the undersigned, am a student at the University of North Texas (UNT) and I am enrolled in ________________________________ (name of course). By my signature below I hereby grant permission to UNT to use, copy, reproduce, publish, distribute or display and all works created to comply with the requirements of this course in accordance with the terms set forth below. Additionally I consent to the disclosure of the work created in this class as may be accompanied by my name and other personally identifiable information for purposes as set forth below.

2. Scope of permission. This permission extends to the use of the described work and images of such work: 1) for academic purposes in order to demonstrate examples of student work to current and future UNT students; 2) for public display in the galleries or on the campus of UNT or on the UNT website; 3) for promotional materials created by UNT in all forms of media now known or later developed, including but not limited to exhibition catalogues, direct mail, websites, advertising and classroom presentations. My permission is on-going and will continue until such time as I revoke it by giving UNT three months written notice of revocation to the professor of record for this course. UNT will have three months from the date of my notice to stop all use in accordance with this permission.

3. Certificate of ownership. I am the owner of all the work submitted in accordance with the requirements of the named course and the work is not subject to any grant or restriction that would prevent its use consistent with this permission. All aspects of the work are original to me and have not been copied. I understand that as owner of the work I have the right to control all reproduction, copying and use of the work in accordance with U.S. copyright laws.

4. Privacy release. I hereby authorize and consent to the release, maintenance and display of my name if necessary and any other personally identifiable information that I have provided in connection with the work and its use in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

5. Signature. By signing below I hereby grant the permissions indicated above. I understand that this grant of permission relates only to the use of the described work. This is not an exclusive right and I may sell, give or otherwise transfer the rights to such work to others on a non-
exclusive or exclusive basis. However, in the event that I do sell, give or otherwise transfer ownership or the exclusive right to use my work to another party, I will notify UNT immediately in writing through the professor of record for this course. UNT will have three months from the date of my notice to stop all use in accordance with this permission.

Printed name:_____________________________________
Signature:________________________________________
Date:_____________________________________________