

## **Short Assignment #2: Recording Your Soundscape**

The term “soundscape,” popularized in 1977 by the composer, teacher, and environmentalist Raymond Murray Schafer, refers to the sonic environment one inhabits. As the term indicates, sound has an intimate and dynamic relationship to space. As a child, you might have been told to keep your voice down because you are in a library or in a classroom, which made you understand the nature of the space (i.e. public or at least non-private) and the people who inhabit it (i.e. student-teacher, adult-child relationships). The music that plays in a room can change its nature and function—upbeat music for dancing, slow music for introspection, and so on.

### **Your Task**

In alignment with our goal this week of understanding how sound in itself can constitute a form of rhetorical communication, this assignment asks you to discuss your relationship with the soundscape(s) you inhabit. This assignment consists of 2 parts:

1. A 5-to-10-minute sound recording of a soundscape of your own choosing. This can be done in many ways: record yourself doing activities such as taking a walk through your local neighborhood, cooking in your kitchen, being alone in a room, etc., etc. A soundscape is interesting because it tends to be more porous and thus social—think of videos of opera singers singing from their balconies to entertain their neighbors that surfaced a while ago—so try not to exclude anything from your recording. Of course, include and exclude sounds out of your own discretion.
2. A 2-3-page analysis on your relationship to the sounds in this soundscape. Just like DuBois’s use of the sorrow songs to show the entanglements of white society and black enslavement as foundational to the US, ask yourself how these sounds reveal your relationship to this place. What do these sounds do? What do they communicate? How do they define the place they become a part of? These questions are a jumping board to get you going.

To make your analysis directly relevant to our class discussions, refer to and cite at least one of the readings from this week (Freud or DuBois) to support your analysis. You do not need to use any citational format, but please do include the page number.

### **Rubric**

A successful paper

- explains clearly and persuasively the social relationships and meanings embedded in the soundscape.
- uses the relevant insight from Freud and DuBois.

4.0-3.9—fulfills all three requirements.

3.8-3.5—fulfills two requirements while leaving one undeveloped.

3.4-3.0—fulfills two requirements.

2.9-2.5—fulfills one requirement while leaving one undeveloped.

<2.5—fulfills only one requirement.

### **Format**

Minimum 2 *full* pages, Times New Roman, 12 points, double space, 1-inch margins, in .doc or .pdf format.