



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **MUVN01, Sound Studies in Theory and Practice, 15 credits**

*Sound Studies in Theory and Practice, 15 högskolepoäng*

**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2019-05-28. The syllabus comes into effect 2019-05-28 and is valid from the autumn semester 2020.

### **General information**

The course is a freestanding course. It may be included in a second cycle degree.

*Language of instruction:* English

The language of instruction is English. The course can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by the lecturers and students. Such an agreement requires that all teachers and students are proficient in Swedish.

*Main field of study*

*Specialisation*

Musicology

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- account for and discuss representations of sound in different contexts and situations
- provide a specialised account of theories and methods in sound studies research
- provide a specialised account and analysis of social, historical, philosophical and aesthetic dimensions of different auditory phenomena
- reflect on practical sound production

- account for and critically discuss the significance of sound for the cultural understanding, social context and well-being of human beings

### **Competence and skills**

- using appropriate concepts, participate in scholarly dialogue and debate on auditory culture
- apply appropriate methods and theories to carry out their own studies in the sound studies field
- design sounds in practice for a communicative or aesthetic context
- critical analyse and discuss practical processes

### **Judgement and approach**

- at an advanced level, apply a critical, analytical and scholarly approach in the discipline of sound studies
- critically and analytically relate to sound design and the effect of sound environments on their surroundings
- relate contemporary local phenomena to historical, global, social or political issues
- communicate the field to others using correct language, in speech and in writing, as well as through an auditory production.

### **Course content**

The course provides a general introduction to the interdisciplinary field of sound studies. The course draws on a broad spectrum of theoretical and methodological approaches from the humanities disciplines, e.g. musicology, art history, digital culture and ethnology, but also extends to fields such as sociology, acoustics, psychoacoustics, medicine, artistic research and technology studies. The course covers different subjects such as soundscapes in rural and urban areas, sound and technology, audio walks and audio guides, everyday noise and health issues, sound design and functional sounds, sound in galleries and museums, and the politics and territoriality of sounds.

With current technological possibilities (software, sound recording and playback equipment), sound studies also invites students to carry out practical explorations in the field. These include experimental sound installations in public domains, empirical studies of functional sounds, analyses and designs of fictitious or existing soundscapes, aesthetic explorations of sound installations, production of audio guides or reportages, or sound installations in museums.

The course is therefore designed as a two-part course where the first part focuses on theory and historical perspectives, while the second part focuses on method, analysis and practical elements.

## Course design

Teaching consists of teacher-led lessons, seminars, group assignments, field trips and workshops. Participation is compulsory at 1-3 seminars, 1-2 field trips, 1-3 group assignments and 1-2 workshop (s), for which scheduled assessment takes place. Absence can be compensated for by a written assignment.

## Assessment

Assessment is based on 1-3 oral examinations, 1 major written assignment, 1 practical sound production and 1 minor production report.

The examiner may deviate from the regular form of examination if it cannot be implemented during a re-examination, and if it complies with the learning outcomes of the course.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

## Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is U.

The final grade for the course is calculated as an average of the individual grades awarded for each of the components (oral examination, written assignment, practical sound production and production report), which are awarded as points (A=90-100 points, B=80-89 points, C=70-79 points, D=60-69 points, E=50-59 points). Each component comprises a quarter of the grade awarded for the whole course.

## Entry requirements

For admission to the course, students must have passed 90 first cycle credits, of which 15 credits must correspond to a degree project.

## Further information

1. The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
2. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details, see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.