

Spring '15 - Special topics in Music and Society:

Sound, Music and Ecology

Prof. Marié Abe

CFA MH344 A1 (For 3 or 4 credits)

Tues/Thurs 3:30 – 5:00pm



How might critical attention to sound and music yield new insights into the interactions among societies and their environment? In this course, through specific ethnographic case studies, we will examine how the ecological relationships between humans and their surroundings are expressed, sustained, and sometimes challenged through musical sounds.

The special and central component of the course is a week-long BU residency of North and East African musicians from the Nile Project, an international arts organization that uses music to foster cross-cultural conversations about the water politics around the Nile River. Through workshops and discussions with members of the Nile Project, we will explore the intersection of music, geography, environment, and sustainability, while reflecting on the efficacy as well as limitations of socially engaged arts in politically contested contexts.