73.212 / 91.212 Assignment No. 4

AudioEthnography: The Soundtrack of Your Life

Date Due: Thursday, March 12, 2009

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What This Assignment Is About

This next project is a play on the term autoethnography. According to Wikipedia, autoethnography is a form of autobiographical personal narrative that explores the writer's experience of life. Autoethnography focuses on the writer's subjective experience, rather than the beliefs and practices of others.

Autoethnography is now becoming more widely used (though controversial) in performance studies, the sociology of new media, novels, journalism, and communication, and applied fields such as management studies.

What You Are To Do

Instead of a written narrative, you will be creating an audio narrative of who you are. Your materials will be a collection of music that can describe you, reflect your interests, be representative of the type of music you enjoy, or anything else that will give us an idea of who you are and what makes you tick. You may also include other non-musical sound sources to enhance your presentation.

One piece of music played from start to finish will not cut it. You will need to work with at least a half dozen musical sources that you will edit, process, and layer into a cohesive musical narrative of exactly 300 seconds...not a second more nor a second less.

Submitting Your Assignment for Grading

For this project you will email your file to us through a drop box. Just go to:

http://soundcloud.com/soundthinking/dropbox

and log in using your normal UML username and password and everything else should be pretty straightforward.

How You Will Be Graded

As before, we are looking for creativity and good, technical use of the sound editing software we've been studying.