**Podcast assignment**

In this assignment, you will produce a piece of digital scholarship, namely a **10-15 minute audio essay** (“podcast”) about one of the writers listed below and/or a Canadian writer of your choosing who is not on our syllabus (consult with me first). Your podcast should focus on a specific aspect of their life, work, or legacy.

Your piece must include the following three elements: 1) an introduction and/or personal narration recorded by you, 2) archival (or already recorded) audio, and 3) at least one original interview. You may also include music and other sound effects. Feel free to get creative with the structure of your podcast! You do not necessarily need to make a linear ‘argument’ as you would in an academic essay, but can instead experiment with the tone and structure of your piece.

Possible writers: Daphne Marlatt; Nicole Brossard; Margaret Atwood; Michael Ondaatje; bpNichol; Christian Bök; Leanne Simpson

**Technology information**

* Audacity is the recommended audio editing software for this project, although you are welcome to use other programs (Garage Band, Hindenburg, etc.) if you have prior experience with these platforms. **On January 9 & 16, our class will be held at the usual time in the Glendon Digital Media Lab (B217)**. I will teach you the rudiments of recording and editing audio in Audacity. **These classes will be essential for learning the required skills, so please make every effort to attend.**
* You can borrow audio recording equipment (Zoom recorders; various microphones) from the Glendon Digital Media Lab. See <https://www.glendon.yorku.ca/digital-media-lab/equipment/> for the full list. To borrow equipment for one week, fill out this sheet (48 hours notice required, pickup at Frost circulation desk): <http://scottlibrary.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=26102>.

**Resources**

* In order to prepare for this assignment, it will be useful to listen to several other podcasts to get a feel for the conventions and possibilities of audio. You can download podcasts through Spotify, Apple Music, podcasting apps, or else you can stream them directly from the production company’s website. Here are some recommendations of podcasts that will give you a feel for different techniques and structures:
  + This American Life (WNYC)
  + The Daily (The New York Times)
  + Short Cuts (BBC)
  + The New Yorker: Poetry
  + Secret Feminist Agenda (Hannah McGregor)
  + I have also uploaded to the Google Drive an episode I created that will be part of Concordia’s SpokenWeb podcast, not out of vanity but rather to give you a sense of the kinds of things you might try
* PennSound (<http://writing.upenn.edu/pennsound/>) and SpokenWeb (<https://montreal.spokenweb.ca/audio-archives/>) are two great resources for finding archival audio of literary readings and interviews
* Blue Dot Sessions (<https://www.freemusicarchive.org/music/Blue_Dot_Sessions>) create high-quality free instrumental music that is available for non-commercial use.

**What and how you will submit**

You will submit the following:

* The audio of your podcast in .wav format
* The script of your podcast as a Word document or pdf
* A bibliography of sources used in the podcast, including audio clips

All assignments should be submitted to the Google drive folder located here:

…

There are individual folders for each of you to upload your documents.