

**Rels 8210**  
**Religious Sounds Map Project**

This unit is comprised of two parts. To be successful with both, you should keep both in mind as you work.

**Part 1: Collecting Publicly Available Sound (75%)**

Your task is to record a publicly available sound in metropolitan Atlanta for the Religious Sounds Map Project. The goal of this Project, in its simplest terms, is to begin answering the question, “What does religious ritual sound like in Atlanta?” The sound that you ultimately post need not be terribly complex or long (2.5-4 minutes), but it should capture a moment that speaks to this question. The specifics of this part of the assignment are as follows:

- Before you begin, please go to ATLMaps (<https://atlmaps.com> ; click on “Religious Sounds”) to familiarize yourself with previous images, sound clips, and interviews. Note that this map is in process, so not every “pin” has all the information uploaded yet.
- In many cases, you will need to reach out to key people to ask permission if you may record sound. It would not be a good idea to simply show up and ask permission on the spot. Instead, you should call or write an email describing who you are, what you are working on, and what you would like to do. You may ask to record something very specific (a choir rehearsal) or you may ask your subject what kinds of compelling sounds they may suggest. Events that are occurring spontaneously in public are certainly possibilities, but we are on a tight schedule, and those kinds of events are impossible to schedule.
- After you select a recording site/event, you should do some preliminary research to learn what you can about its community and practices. If your site/event has a website or Facebook page, familiarize yourself with it. If it is associated with a broader tradition, read up on it. If there are social media forums where people discuss your site, visit them.
- You should reserve and become familiar with the technology you need. Either reserve a recording “bag” in the department or reserve a digital audio recorder via the library. Instructions for how to use the digital auto recorder can be found online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP9AKt5JBcI> . A hard copy of the instruction manual can also be found within the digital recorder bag. Let me or my GRA know if you would like help learning to use the technology. Before you visit your site/event, make sure you have extra batteries and headphones on hand, that you understand how the recorder works, and that you know and have a plan for submitting and storing a back-up of your final digital files.

- You should record a sound that is occurring without your direct intervention. In other words, do not plan to “stage” a sound. Your job is to observe and capture what would have been already occurring. Don’t worry about filtering ambient “noise”; these are part of the event
- You must provide metadata to the Religious Sounds Map Project (see form below). You should review the form carefully before you visit the site/event to capture sound so you know what kinds of information to collect. You will receive specific instructions about submitting your sound files.
- For additional questions, please contact my GRA, Steven Shields, at [sshields4@student.gsu.edu](mailto:sshields4@student.gsu.edu).

\*\*\*Your audio text will be assessed on the following criteria:

You recorded and submitted an appropriate, high-quality religious sound (2.5-4 minutes) that will be useful as an element of the Religious Sound Maps Project (25%)

You recorded and submitted an appropriate, high-quality interview (2.5-4 minutes) that explains the recorded religious sound(s) that will be useful as an element of the Religious Sound Maps Project (25%)

You submitted the required, completed consent form(s) (10%).

You submitted 2 appropriate, high-quality photo images of the site/event that will be useful as elements of the Religious Sounds Map Project (15%).

## **Part 2: Religious Sounds Map Project Metadata (25%)**

Full name of person recording:

Organization/individuals you are recording (use full, official name, and provide full address):

Event you are recording:

Event’s religious/denominational affiliation (if any):

Location where recording was made (complete address, even if the same as above):

Location (GPS coordinates):

\*See <http://www.gps-coordinates.net/gps-coordinates-converter>

Date of recording:

Time of recording:  
 Duration of recording: (Hours:minutes:seconds):  
 Digital audio recorder used:  
 Digital camera used:

Filename of recording as submitted:  
 e.g. Event\_2016\_09\_07\_McClymond

Describe the vocal sounds you recorded:

Spoken:

Sung:

Chanted:

None of the above (no vocal sounds):

What instruments were used, if any? (List all, or indicate “n/a” if there were none). Be sure to confirm spelling of instrument names unfamiliar to you.

How would you describe the general qualities of the sounds you observed? (Note all that apply, and comment as appropriate):

Loud:

Quiet:

Amplified:

Musical:

Ambient (primarily background sounds):

How would you describe the group performing the sound (Note all that apply, and comment as appropriate):

Congregation: (an intentional gathering of religious practitioners in a place of worship)

Primarily family and close friends (for example, at a home)

General public

Co-ed/mixed genders (if binaries don't work, please describe)

Male-identified (if binaries don't work, please describe)

Female-identified (if binaries don't work, please describe)

Children only

Adults only

Multiple genders present, but separated

Openly LGBTQ inclusive

White people

Black people

Hispanic people

East Asian descent

South Asian descent

Native American/Alaskan native/Hawaiian native/First Nations people

Middle Eastern descent  
 Southeast Asian descent  
 Other ethnicities  
 Primarily American-born  
 Primarily immigrant  
 Primarily native English speakers  
 Primarily non-English speakers

Describe the event's primary leader(s):

Single leader

Multiple leader

Ordained or qualified with special religious training (e.g., priests, rabbis, most pastors, imams, cantors, monks, etc.)

Lay leader

There was no observable leader

Other:

Describe any texts used (note all that apply, and comment as appropriate):

Scripture/holy text:

Lyrics:

Worship texts (prayer book, prayers printed in handout):

No texts were read, chanted, recited, etc.:

What languages were used for preaching, announcements, or other things directed to the listeners?

What languages were used for prayers, invocations, etc.?

What languages were used for hymns, songs, or chants?

Describe the space and place where you made the recording (check all that apply)?

Indoors:

Outdoors:

House of worship:

Commercial space:

Public space (street, square, etc.):

Green space or natural area (e.g., a park):

GSU campus:

Private home:

Online/Virtual space:

None of these:

Describe the context of the event:

Regular event (e.g., weekly service or meeting):

Religious holiday

Cultural festival (e.g., diaspora community festival, heritage celebration, Pow-wow, etc.)

Civic holiday

Special service (e.g., wedding, funeral, baptism, bar/bat mitzvah, ordination, etc.)

No event (ambient recording)

Expo or convention

Musical, dance, or dramatic performance (concert, sacred dance, holiday pageant, etc.)

Specify briefly what the event was (e.g., “Sunday service with two baptisms,” “Universal Life Expo,” “Memorial Day commemoration.”)

Please add up to five words or two or three word-phrases, **\*\*on separate lines\*\***

describing sound or context that could be used as tags (optional) (e.g., Community meal, silent worship, military, etc., No more than two or three words per tag, please.)

Do you think you recorded anything that might potentially be copyrighted?

Yes (specify in Other)

No

I don't know (specify in Other)

Other:

Qualitative notes on the sound(s):

What types of sounds did you hear? How were they combined? How were they produced? What was the style? What did you perceive as the essential or most noticeable features?

Qualitative notes on performance space and community context:

How would you describe the religious community or tradition with which this recording is associated (or how would they describe it)? Be as specific/precise as possible (e.g. Theravada Buddhist, Reform Jewish, etc.). Approximately how many people were there? What can you say about approximate makeup, in terms of age, gender, race, ethnicity, etc.? What else was going on? What other sights, sounds, smells, tastes, textures, objects, bodily movements? How was the room arranged (seating, standing, etc.)?

Description of image #1: Who/what is in image? Where taken? When? Who took the photo? What is captured of importance in this image? What is the filename of the image?

Description of image #2: Who/what is in image? Where taken? When? Who took the photo? What is captured of importance in this image? What is the filename of the image?

Descriptive fieldnotes:

What else did you notice? What was interesting? What stood out for you? What else did you learn while you were there? What more would you like to know about the sound?

Notes for future work on this site/event:

Should we go back? What other events should we investigate? What did you miss?