

# FM317 Embodying Practices of Confession

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Office Hours: by appointment

## Course Description

Walking the line between self-expression and universalist ideas of the subject, the course will explore how to use the autobiographical as a starting point for creating fictional or documentary work. We will study radical strategies and practices from feminist and queer artists who use their private life, bodies and environments as a tool to negotiate political positions. We look at iconic figures of whom were shaped by the political landscape of their time, as well as contemporary artists who use modern technology and tools to forge new identities and challenge patriarchal structures. Through the mode of "play," prepare to encounter new configurations and methods that will take you out of your comfort zone. Students applying for this course should already have experience in filming and editing, and be interested in exploring a multitude of roles within video art production including: collective and individual filmmaking, directing, acting, editing, script writing, character development, set production, sound recording and costume design. The focus of this course will not be on technical instruction but rather on conceptualization, development and execution of ideas that embrace our most subversive obsessions, and which can address complex topics, feelings, and frustrations about contemporary life.

## Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during the entire class time, including off-campus trips. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with Professor or Arts Staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails from Professor in a timely manner.
- Inform Professor at beginning of the semester if photos of student, artwork, works in progress are NOT to be taken and / or used for Bard College Berlin.
- Remove all artworks, art materials, and / or any personal belongings before end of semester inspection of spaces (including any storage offered). Failure to remove works or return spaces clean and empty may result in final grade penalization. Please note: donating unrequested artworks and / or art materials is not permitted and will still be considered student property, expected to be removed by your inspection deadline. Please contact Studio Arts Manager Joon Park for more information: [j.park@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:j.park@berlin.bard.edu)

### Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Syllabi should note that, instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

### Attendance

- Attendance of all classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course.
- Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling / travel conflict, Professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence.

### Assessment

Embodying practice of Confession is a course where students experiment through different assignments in video and related mediums, collaborative exercises and working methods. This initial phase of experimentation may include drawing as well as performative assignments, set-creation, and workshops as well as smaller-scale video assignments and one longer video assignment towards the end. Students will be expected to do ALL assignments and participate actively in class, and to be able to structure their time well for all assignments, that will require several stages of production. Even though this is a video-class, the creative process and conceptual procedures that build up toward making the videos will also be part of the assessment, essentially the students' entire process in all its aspects is assessed. This means that the earlier experimentations, sketches, rough-cuts of videos, and exercises across mediums are equally important for the grading. If students fail to show earlier rough-cuts, sketches and production plans in class, the final videos will not be accepted for grading and cannot be shown in the final presentation. Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with the Professor as well as amongst themselves. This also includes their ambition to create artworks as well as their willingness and capacity to budget their time for all requirements connected to this class. This assessment also includes preparation, production, and cleaning up of spaces used at Bard College Berlin.

### Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments (artworks, essays, performances, oral presentations) that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

### **Grade Breakdown**

The percentage grade allotted to each project / presentation, and to classroom participation and

assignments

Communication and Class participation: Communication includes communication habits with Professor, in class and via email, and among other students. Class Participation includes attendance, engagement in class workshops, critiques and conversations and maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal: % 40

Assignments and Project presentations for critiques includes: all assignments, sketches, and production phases, end of semester presentations / videos / performances: % 60

## Schedule

Spring 2019 classes start on Monday, January 28 and run until Friday, May 17 with spring break planned from Monday, April 15 – Sunday, April 21. Completion week is from May 13-17. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:

<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>

**Note:** This class will end with a public screening presenting the final video works or materials from the course will be shown. The planned date for this is Saturday May 11th between 4-9. (Factory open house event)

It's important to save all material that is made during class and assignments including first sketches etc as they will be re-used as material along the the course and for grading.

### Key Assignments:

- 1. Brutal confession - due February 5**
- 2. Embodiment - due February 19**
- 3. Cut the crap Blablaba - due March 12 and March 19**
- 4. Warrior (Final Assignment) - due - April 23, April 30 and May 7**

#### Class 1 January 29

Introduction of the course. Working methods and themes. Who have the right to speak?

Short reading and discussion excerpt of Audrey Lord: The transformation of silence into language.

Practical workshop: Never have I ever.

Assignment: Brutal confession - Embarrassment as a tool of power  
(1 min video to be done by February 5th)

#### Class 2 February 5

Review of Assignment: Brutal confession

Class material and discussion of sexual self-expression, confession and identity online. ex Ann Hirsch - scandalishious, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Youtube battle. Practical exercises.

Mandatory in-class facility orientations (about 1h)

Camera instruction by Janina Schabig

Class 3 February 12

The own body as a mean of power and political tool. Class Material and discussion: Annie Sprinkle, Maja Malou Lyse, Andrea Éva Győri, Ana Mendieta, Jack Smith, Amalia Ulman.  
Assignment: Embodiment - due February 19

Class 4 February 19

Review of assignment: Embodiment.  
How to get out of your head, practical workshop including napping, dreaming, memory, writing, drawing rituals. Class material: CA Conrad creating conditions.

Audio and Light instruction by Janina Schabig

Class 5 February 26

Lecture performance and mini workshop with Monira Al Qadiri <http://www.moniraalqadiri.com/>

Class 6 March 5

Storytelling and fictional character development. In class workshop.  
Assignment: Cut the crap Blablabla Script and storyboard - due March 12

Class 7 March 12

Review of Assignment: Blablabla Script and storyboard.  
Cut up collages and found materials. Class Materials: Hannah Black.  
Assignment: Cut the crap Blablabla Video - due March 19

Class 8 March 19

Review of Assignment: Cut the crap Blablabla Video  
(Midterm Grades)

Class 9 March 26

Your own life as script. Trauma and self-care + how to have fun? Class Material: Samira Elagoz, Kathy Acker, Howardena Pindell.

Class 10 April 2

Workshop: Play with Natasja Loutchko <http://www.natasjaloutchko.se/>  
Outside of campus, place to be announced and longer time block (15:45-20:30)  
(Another class with shorter block will be announced)

Class 11 April 9

Review of workshop material from Play. How to create your fictional place / situations.  
Presentation of Final Assignment: Warrior - due April 23, April 30 and May 7.

April 16 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

Class 12 April 23

Review of first part Assignment: Warrior + Making Film Poster (for final public screening)

Class 13 April 30

Review of second part Assignment: Warrior and individual talks.

#### Class 14 May 7

Review of Final Assignment: Warrior. Video work to be ready. Planning for Public screening on May 11..

#### Public screening May 11

Factory open house event: 4-9 (plus time for setup)

#### Class 15 May 14

Last class. Evaluation and feedback.

**This syllabus may be subject to changes in regard to content as well as dates!**

## Grades Submission

All grades are submitted digitally to the Registrar's office in a template provided in advance. Please note the following submission deadlines when setting essay deadlines:

- Midterm grades are due end of week 8, i.e. 22 March 2019
- Final grades for senior students - 16 May 2019
- Final grades for all other students – 31 May 2019

To facilitate graduation procedures, final essay deadlines for senior students should be earlier in the semester so as to have their final grades available by Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Reminders about the above deadlines will be communicated by [registrar@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:registrar@berlin.bard.edu)

## Facility Guidelines:

### “The Factory” – Eichenstrasse 43

- 1) The BCB “Factory” (main arts building) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Students agree to only use the common spaces in the building that are available for their needs, and must respect private spaces that are off-limits.
- 2) Chip access to The Factory building and other arts facilities is limited to those students currently registered for classes needing those facilities. Orientations are required before access is granted. In addition, students and faculty involved in clubs as well as event hosting may receive chip access and permission to use The Factory after orientations have been arranged through the Studio Arts Manager.
- 3) No smoking is allowed anywhere inside the building. There are to be no projects using open flames (such as candles, torches, lanterns, fireworks, etc.) inside any part of the building.
- 4) Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
- 5) No spray-painting inside of the building. This also includes any strong, odorous materials (with or without spray). All production involving odorous material is to be done outside of the building.

- 6) All work surfaces (table and floor) must be properly protected with thick plastic or cardboard. If production is to happen outside, ground / concrete is also to be protected.
- 7) No oil painting is allowed on the property unless student is enrolled in a BCB painting course, or approved in advance by the Studio Arts Manager
- 8) Food must be always cleaned up and removed immediately.. All food must be disposed of in lidded trash cans.
- 9) All students are to always be respectful of other student artworks and personal property.
- 10) No art projects may function as weapons, or potentially cause bodily harm.
- 11) No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside or around the workshop areas, which includes walking through the workshop. This includes dance and theater students as well.
- 12) Students should always wear adequate protection (goggles, gloves, dust masks, etc.) when needed. Protective gear can be found in the Factory workshop.
- 13) If you are uncertain how to use a tool or piece of equipment or require assistance, please ask Studio Arts Manager for assistance (by appointment).
- 14) Students must make sure all lights are turned off and doors are closed when leaving the building. No windows or doors are to be left opened or cracked. All electrical items must be unplugged when not in use.
- 15) Any unidentified property left in any common space is subject to either be taken or thrown out, without restitution.
- 16) All Workshop items checked out are due back during the Workshop hours the following day, unless other arrangements have been made in advance directly with Studio Arts Manager. Workshop hours are: Mon-Friday, 1-3 pm. Details will be offered during orientation.
- 17) Any items leaving the building without permission will be considered stolen, and access to the factory may be suspended for the rest of the semester. If an item must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, contact The Arts Staff, and be prepared to leave your Student ID as a deposit. Fines may be charged for late return.
- 18) All students must respect signage posted in the factory that may involve rules that are not mentioned in this document. This includes signage indicating reserved spaces where communal use is restricted.
- 19) There are to be no architectural changes to studios or any areas inside or outside of the building without first speaking with the Studio Arts Manager. When repainting any walls that need restoration, please consult with Studio Arts Manager beforehand.
- 20) During completion week, any space used by a student must be returned empty with clean walls and floors. All garbage must be bagged (or boxed) and properly disposed of. All students must accept the penalty of grades being affected and / or fines imposed if items are left (or renovations unfinished) by the inspection deadline.
- 21) Contact Studio Arts Manager Joon Park directly with any questions: [j.park@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:j.park@berlin.bard.edu)

## AV Facilities – Eichenstrasse 43 (upstairs)

- 1) BCB's AV (Audio / Visual) facilities provide a limited quantity of AV equipment to support Admin, Faculty as well as those students enrolled in arts classes that require specific items. AV facilities do not include any black and white or color printing services for students.
- 2) The opening times may change every semester to adapt to specific course times. Once these times are established they will stay consistent throughout the semester, with possible exceptions. AV facilities are ONLY available during days when classes are held (closed during official BCB holidays).
- 3) All items checked out are due back during AV hours the following day, unless other

arrangements have been made in advance directly with AV Staff.

- 4) Items to be reserved on a specific date should be requested at least one week in advance. Without reservation, availability is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis.
- 5) The AV Staff may exclude students from borrowing items at any time, if the student:
  - failed to return items in time
  - failed to return items in person (pick up and/ or return by friends is not allowed)
  - returned items with missing pieces
  - returned items damaged or in poor shape
- 6) AV equipment will be given out only to those students responsible in organizing, picking up as well as returning their items IN PERSON. No exceptions.
- 7) All items returned late, regardless of patron's position at BCB, will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day.
- 8) Any item returned without accessories (such as cables, SD card, batteries, tripod head, lens cap, etc) will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day (the same as late returns).
- 9) Any items missing will be subject to patron reimbursement for its value (or under special circumstances, replacement, at the discretion of AV Staff). Any items damaged or malfunctioning are expected to be reported to Staff upon check-in.
- 10) Please use the AV email to inquire about equipment or policy, as well as to reserve (av@berlin.bard.edu). Do not contact AV Staff through their personal emails.
- 11) We strongly suggest personally visiting the facilities to inquire and reserve before borrowing equipment!
- 12) AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
- 13) Contact AV Staff directly with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu

MacLab and Photo Darkroom Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

\*\* Guidelines to be offered during orientations.