

FA207 Advanced B/W Photography: Exploring the Photographic Series

Seminar Leader: April Gertler

Course Time: Thursdays, 3.45 - 7pm

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Office Hours: by appointment -Tuesdays 1 - 3pm

Course Description

This is an advanced level photography class focusing on the development of one body of work over the course of the semester. Students will create a portfolio that includes a minimum of 15 images and a written text that explores the process and concepts behind the work. This is a critique-based class with regular check-ins on the development of work, some involving the feedback of guest photography curators. The class will also involve readings and multiple short written assignments related to the central photographic series each student decides to pursue. The student is required to do research on the topic they choose in addition to doing presentations on the topic they are interested in photographing.

Prerequisites for the class are (for BCB students) the Introduction to Photography course. Students from other institutions must submit 5 Black and White photographic prints showing that they know how to use a B/W darkroom. Each student must have his or her own camera, digital or otherwise.

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 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 any personal belongings before the final inspection of the arts spaces during completion week. Failure to remove works and / or clean spaces used will result in final grade penalization. Donating artworks or art materials (unrequested) at any-time is not permitted and will still be considered student's property that will be expected to be uninstalled and removed.
- Purchase their own film and photographic paper when needed

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.

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

This class is based on a rubric system of grading. Everything is graded on a points system.

Here is the breakdown:

Prints and Presentations will be due almost weekly.

Therefore each time prints are due it is worth: 25 points. (210 points in total)

Attendance is worth 10 points per day and exhibition install/deinstall, if there should be one. (140 points)

Unexcused absences = loss of 10 points

An excused absence is issued when the instructor is informed in advance (via text or e-mail) that you will miss class.

Lateness and / or not being prepared for class = loss of 5 points

Failure to clean up your part in the darkroom/classroom = loss of 5 points

The final grade is based on a total of 350 points.

Though this structure you can easily keep track of your grade through the semester.

Your grade reflects the number of points you earn:

350-315 = A

314-279 = B

278-243 = C

206- = F

Assessment

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 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.

Anticipated Costs for this Class

Although each student will receive 2 rolls of film provided by BCB, each student will be expected to purchase their own film for this class.

There are not that many photo stores in Berlin but here are a few where you can go to buy your materials:

We recommend buying materials with other students - it's cheaper!

General Materials:

Fotopioniere (they give a 5% student discount with your student ID) (fotopioniere.com)

Karl-Marx-Allee 87, 10243 Berlin-Friedrichshain (nr. U5 Strausberger Platz or Weberwiese)

FOTOIMPEX GmbH

Alte Schönhauser Str. 32b, 10119 Berlin-Mitte (nr. U2 Weinmeister Str. - south exit!)

Opening times: Mon - Sat: 12.00 – 20.00 Uhr

Film options:

The cost of a roll of B/W 35mm film can be between €4.50 - €7:

*FOTOIMPEX CHM 400 Kleinbildfilm 135/36 = €4.15

(*available at FotoImpex only: www.fotoimpex.de)

ILFORD Delta 400ASA 135/36 = €5.95 (based on FotoImpex website)

KODAK TRI-X 400ASA 135/36 = €6.09 (based on FotoImpex website)

Paper options:

ADOX Easy Print RC 311 - Hochglänzend/Glossy - 18x24 / 25 Blatt - Gradation: variabel

= +/- €13.00 (Only at FotoImpex)

Foma Variant - Multigrade - glossy or satin - 18x24 / 50 sheets

= +/- €23.00 (at FotoPioneer)

Processing:

Viertel vor 8 (<https://vv8.de>), Pappelallee 7/8, 10437 Berlin (nr. M1 / U2 Eberwalderstr.)

Opening times: Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm

Jetfoto, Dircksenstraße 89, 10178 Berlin (nr. Alexanderplatz)

Opening times: Mon - Fri: 9 - 8pm, Sat 11 - 8pm

Pixel Grain, Rosenstraße 17, 10178 Berlin (nr. Alexanderplatz)

Opening times: Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm, Sunday 2 - 7pm

Weekly Schedule*

*There may be adjustments to the timing of assignments as well as adjustments of content as course progresses. All students will be informed of any new expectations and / or deadlines.

If students would like to have their film processed near the Bard campus - please use this lab:

Viertel vor 8 (<https://vv8.de>), Pappelallee 7/8, 10437 Berlin

(nr. M1 / U2 Eberwalderstr.) // Opening times: Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm

Please note: *It is NOT ACCEPTABLE to miss class time to pick up your processed film. If your film is not processed for class time it will be reflected in your grade.

January 31: Week 1

Introduction to the class, introduction of each student to the class

Tour of the facilities, including the Factory and distribution of materials: (film, photographic paper etc)

All students are required to prepare a presentation in the form of a mood board on a minimum of 3 ideas for their project which they plan on working on for the entire semester. Due next week on February 7.

The presentation must be a minimum of 10 pages and include 2 video clips not longer than 3 minutes each. The mood board should include sample images: examples of images by other photographers (maybe a style that is interesting to that the student), ideas that correspond to the concept/idea they are pursuing, etc.

February 7: Week 2

Presentations of mood boards by each student.

February 14: Week 3

5 Work Prints (work prints can be small: A5) are due with a follow up discussion on the way the research and ideas are developing for each student's project.

Please note, every time images are due in class it is expected that the student bring their previous images as well.

February 21: Week 4

Photo walk through the city if students would like to join first class ?

February 28: Week 5

7 Work Prints are due with a follow up discussion on the way the research and ideas are developing for each student's project. Production time.

March 7: Week 6

Guest artist talk

March 14: Week 7

7 Work Prints are due in a one on one meeting (15 min each) between April Gertler and each student. Production time.

March 21: Week 8

15 Work Prints due in addition to a 1+ page paper which corresponds to the students research and ideas thus far on the project. This should include 8 of the previously best images the student has already presented to class and 7 new images.

One on one meetings (5 min each) with each person in the class between the professor and each student

March 28: Week 9

5 Work Prints are due with a follow up discussion on the way the research and ideas are developing for each student's project.

April 4: Week 10

5 Work Prints are due in a one on one meeting (10 min each) between April Gertler and each student. Production time / Darkroom time for the other students who are not in a meeting.

Discussion about participation in the Open Studio at The Factory ?

April 11: Week 11

FINAL CRITIQUE: 15 prints are due in addition to a 2-3 page paper that supports your

images and your ideas surrounding your theme.

These prints should be a selection of the best images the student has created throughout the semester.

SPRING BREAK: APRIL 15 - APRIL 21

April 25: Week 12

May 2: Week 13

Completion week: darkroom cleanup!

MAY 9 - MAY 17 - COMPLETION WEEK

May 12: Week 14 - Possible Installation and Exhibition at off-site location

The Factory

Facility Policies – 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. Any space in the building, private or shared, cannot be used unless permission has been granted. Any questions relating to this must be addressed to the Director of Studios Arts.
- 2) Chip access to the building will only be granted to those students currently registered for classes using the factory (after add-drop), and that have been offered orientation.
- 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 (black-taped areas) 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 the building.
- 6) All work surfaces (table and floor) must always be protected with thick plastic or cardboard. If production is to happen outside, ground / concrete is also to be protected.
- 7) Food must be always cleaned up and removed immediately. Any food used for an art project requiring refrigeration must be labeled with one’s name, and disposed of after presentation. All food must be disposed of in lidded trash cans.
- 8) All students are to always be respectful of other student artworks and personal property.
- 9) No art projects may function as weapons, or potentially cause bodily harm.
- 10) 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.
- 11) Students should always wear adequate protection (goggles, gloves, dust masks, etc.) when needed. BCB will always try to provide these items.
- 12) If you are uncertain how to use a tool or piece of equipment or require assistance, please ask for assistance (by appointment, if necessary).
- 13) Students must be aware of who else is working in the building after dark. Any curfews estab-

lished by Bard College Berlin must be respected. Finishing production and cleaning up must happen before the curfew time.

- 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. All private property **MUST** be labeled and stored in its proper location.
- 16) All workshop items must be returned to the workshop when not in use.
- 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 your Professor, Studio Arts Manager, or Director of Studio Arts. When repainting any walls that need restoration, please consult with arts staff 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) with any questions: 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).
 - 10) 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 with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu

Photo Darkroom Facilities

Platanenstrasse 98

** Guidelines given during orientation.

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Contact AV Manager: Janina Schabig with questions: j.schabig@berlin.bard.edu