

FA309 Berlin: Responding to the City

Seminar Leader: Louis Cameron
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

The city of Berlin will be the subject of this course. Drawing from personal encounters with the city and their own research, students produce site specific/responsive projects, or a series of works, that addresses the city's history, culture, environment, or other aspect of its reality. Each student will develop an independent project working in any medium they choose including photography, sculpture, painting, film/video, performance or other arts. The class incorporates forms and activities that help contextualize the projects: lectures, studio visits, viewing exhibitions, critiques, and readings. The beginning of the class will involve exposure to precedent-setting examples of artists engaging with their cities. Participants will also maintain a photographic "journal" to keep track of their thoughts throughout the process. Once a direction is established, each project will be developed with input from the instructor, classmates, and others. By the end of the semester students will have completed works that present their specific response to the city of Berlin.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.
- Initiate appointments with Professor or Arts Staff outside of class time.
- 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 the beginning of the semester if photos of student's identity, 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 the end of the semester. Failure to remove works or return spaces clean and empty may result in final grade penalization. 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

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

In this class students will develop projects responding to the city of Berlin. There will be no restrictions on the form these projects may take. One can work in painting, sculpture, photography, video, or any other visual art form. While Bard College Berlin has resources for the students such as a video lab and a shop to work with you students may have to find other resources and purchase special materials depending on the project.

Students will be assessed on their final project, it's completion and how creative the project was executed. Additionally, the process to completing the project will be part of the assessment such preparation, production, are treating the spaces and resources at Bard College Berlin responsibly. Participation in class critiques and discussions is another important criteria for assessment. Finally, attendance will be a factor in assessing ones grade as described above.

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

Class participation (includes attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal, communication with Professor and other students): 35%

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 65%

Schedule

Fall 2019 classes start on Monday, September 2 and run until Friday, December 20 with fall break planned from Monday, October 28 – Sunday, November 3. Completion week is from December 16 - 20. 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/>

<https://berlin.bard.edu/for-students/academic-calendars/>

Week 1: [Sept 2] Introduction to class.
Review syllabus.

	Slide presentation of artists examples for class. Homework: Read essay <i>Death to the Flâneur</i> , Josephine Livingstone and Lovia Gyarkye.
Week 2: [Sept 9]	Class discussion: <i>Death to the Flâneur</i> essay Mandatory in-class facility orientation.
Week 3: [Sept 16]	Off-campus: Make photographs from the S Bahn Homework: Review photographs and prepare to discuss them for next class.
Week 4: [Sept 23]	Studio Session: Edit photographs and work presentation.
Week 5: [Sept 30]	Off-campus: We will make rubbings in Mauerpark.
Week 6: [Oct 7]	Studio Session: Review the rubbings and create finished works.
Week 7: [Oct 14]	Off-campus: Visit Bettina Pousttchi exhibition at Berlinische Galerie.
Week 8: [Oct 21]	Midterm critiques: A review of projects and student progress. Homework: Write proposal for final project.
[Oct 28]	FALL BREAK
Week 9: [Nov 4]	Discussion: We will discuss and start planning the final project
Week 10: [Nov 11]	Off-campus: Visit <i>Durch Mauern gehen</i> (Walking Through Walls) exhibition at Gropius Bau.
Week 11: [Nov 18]	Discussion: <i>Durch Mauern gehen</i> exhibition. Studio Session: Introduction to sound editing software. Edit sound recordings.
Week 12: [Nov 25]	Discuss: Edited sound recordings. Studio Session: Work on final project.
Week 13: [Dec 2]	Studio Session: Continue working on final project.
Week 14: [Dec 9]	Final Critique Inspection of facilities.
[Friday, Dec 13, 5:00 pm]	Open Studios, a building wide presentation of work made this semester from all classes.
Week 15: [Dec 16]	Completion week

Facility Guidelines:

“The Factory” – Eichenstrasse 43

The Factory Policy Agreement

- 1) “The Factory” at BCB (Eichenstrasse 43) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Mandatory in-class orientations are required to retain chip access to the Factory. Chip access to The Factory is from 7am to 10pm everyday during the semester. At 10pm students will be asked to leave the building by BCB security personnel.
- 2) Students agree to only use the common spaces that are available for their needs, and must respect private spaces that are off-limits. For requesting to reserve the dance / theater space and / or Seminar Room 6, please fill out the online [Factory Reservation Form](#). The Factory Staff will get back to you within two weekdays. (Monday - Friday).
- 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) Spray painting and handling of any hazardous (chemical or combustible) material is not allowed inside the building. Contact the Studio Arts Manager concerning working with these materials. All work surfaces (indoor and outdoor) must be properly protected with a drop cloth or a packing paper provided by the workshop.
- 6) No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside the workshop and studio 6.
- 7) 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.
- 8) If BCB workshop tools must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, please contact The Studio Arts Manager (by appointment).
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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. Final grades may be penalized and / or fines imposed if items are left (or renovations unfinished) by the inspection deadline.
- 11) Contact Studio Arts Manager directly 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). 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.