

FM316 “Tearjerks” and Feeling Real – A Visceral Video Process

Seminar Leader: Dafna Maimon
Course Times: 15.45-19.00
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Films known as “tearjerkers” are calculated to move their audiences to feel sympathy, sadness and indeed, even shed tears. As such, they are a form of emotional manipulation regardless of their makers underlying intentions: films may normalize and limit our expectations of life as much as they may liberate our fantasies and challenge us into new ways of thinking. In this class, we will explore the question of how moving image and film as media transmit emotions and generate authenticity, which can at once change, relay, and influence the audience’s own reality. While mainstream romantic comedies, for example, may follow formulaic approaches to manufacturing audience emotions, we will explore the creation of affect through a more visceral process. We will undergo a rigorous and challenging creative practice utilizing a multitude of techniques, through numerous assignments to find out what the emotion is that we want to convey, and how to do so, through a deeply personally-crafted language. Students joining this class should have experience in video making, be open-minded, and ready to experiment with methods like improvisation, role-playing, method-acting, somatic exercises, drawing, costume and set production, and be willing to get their hands dirty in the process. Alongside our own experimentations in video, we will analyze documentary and fiction works from filmmakers and video artists who place emotions and the production of affect in the center of their practices, as well as visit exhibitions and Berlin-based artists in their studios. Ultimately, the goal will be to create a short video work that will burst through the screen directly into the emotional and visceral reality of our viewers.

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.
- Check and 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

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. 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

“Tearjerks” and Feeling Real - A Visceral Video Process” is a course where students experiment through different assignments in video and other mediums, collaborative exercises and working methods toward one final video work. This initial phase of experimentation may include drawing as well as performative assignments, set-creation, and workshops as well as smaller-scale video assignments. Students will be expected to do ALL assignments and participate actively in class, and to be able to structure their time well for all video 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

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

Fall 2018 classes start on Monday, September 3 and run until Friday, December 21 with Fall Break planned from Monday, October 29 – Sunday, November 4. Completion week is from December 17 - 21. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Note:

-Due to off campus visits and in class filming, there may be 1-2 classes that take the format of a longer 4-6 hour workshop, and therefore some classes may be extended or rescheduled. The extension will be made up for by shortening another class. You will be informed of these schedule changes ahead of time in class.

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

<http://www.berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/fall-2018>

Key Assignments:

- 1. Juxtaposed Edit - Due September 12th**
- 2. “Edit and Affect; The Debate” - Due Oct 17th**
- 3. “Manipulation of Space and Feeling” - Due Nov 7th & Nov 14th**
- 4. “From Where and What To Touch” (3 stages) - Due Nov 28th, Dec 5th and 12th**
- 5. Open to Public Screening December 12th (date tbc.)**

Note: This class will end with an open to public screening where the final video works will be shown. The projected date for this is December 12th in the evening, but the exact date and time will be confirmed in the beginning of the semester.

Class 1 September 5th

Introduction to class, working methods and theme: affect and emotion through the medium of video. Discussion: What is *real* emotion in video and what are the materials and working methods we can use to induce and transmit such emotion?

In class exercise: *An emotional plea*

Assignment: Juxtaposed Edit - Due September 12th

For the following week experiment with creating a 1-minute video in which you use a series of two distinctly opposing images or scenes to create opposing emotional effects.

Class 2 September 12th

Review of Assignment: Juxtaposed Edit

Class Materials and Discussion: Artists inducing and decoding emotion: Liz Magic Laser; "Digital Face", Bas Jan Ader; "I'm Too Sad To Tell You", Candice Breitz; "Love Story", Molly Lowe; "Redwood"

Mandatory Factory Orientation and Camera instruction by Janina Schabig

Class 3 September 19th

On site visit to Kunstwerke and meeting curators Maurin Dietrich and Cathrin Mayer who will speak about the work of Lynn Hershmann Leeson and Julia Scher

Assignment: Drawing Responses and Emotive States

Class 4 September 26th

Review of Drawing Assignment

Audio and Light instruction by Janina Schabig

Reading Essay: Laura Mulvey; Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema

October 3rd - NO CLASS Federal Holiday

Class 5 October 10th

Discussing Laura Mulvey Essay and in class workshop: “Filmed Debate”
Assignment: “Edit and Affect; The Debate” - DUE Oct 17th

Class 6 October 17th

Review and Critique Assignment: “Edit and Affect; The Debate”

Class 7 October 24th

Studio Visit and mini workshop with video artist Daniel Laufer

Assignment: “Manipulation of Space and Feeling” - Version 1 DUE Nov 7th

October 31st FALL BREAK- NO CLASS

Class 8 November 7th

Review Assignment: “Manipulation of Space and Feeling” - Version 1

Class 9 November 14 th

Review Assignment: “Manipulation of Space and Feeling” - Version 2

In class introduction to Final Assignment; “From Where and What To Touch” and Film Poster (for final open screening)

Class 10 November 21st

Class Materials: Ed Atkins, Stanya Kahn, Pauline Curnier Jardin, Sharon Hayes, Andrzej Zulawski

In class presentation and discussion of story boards, sketches, moodboard, and other materials

Assignment: Rough Cut - Due November 28th

Class 11 November 28th

Individual Talks: Review and Critique Rough Cut

Class 12 December 5th

In Class review and critique of 1 st Cut and planning screening

Class 13 December 12th

Final Critique of Videos and Posters and Open Screening

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

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.. Any questions relating to this must be addressed to the Director of Studio Arts.
- 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

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.