

FA308 Advanced Photography

Finding the Stories

Seminar Leader: Carla Åhlander
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Office Hours: by appointment
Course schedule: Fridays, 2–5.15 pm

Course Description

This course combines photo analysis and practical photo work. This is a critique-based class where consciousness will be raised of what a narrative constitutes and how the meaning of a photograph is created. In addition to producing their own photo series, the participants will become skilled at looking at, reading and talking about photographs. We will deal with issues such as subjectivity and objectivity, private and public, as well as technical issues like light situations. The workshop will include collaborations between students. Together we will explore a variety of aesthetic, practical and conceptual issues, asking questions like "What is my attitude to the topic?" or "Where does this narrative begin or end?"

In class there will be photographic assignments which are to be presented during the same class – for this, everyone needs to bring their own digital camera (phone camera works). For their own project, each student must have his or her own camera.

The students will also be given assignments to be executed from one week to the next and presented in class. Each student will focus on and develop one larger project from around the middle of the semester until the end. They will also produce a written text that explores the process and concepts behind the work. The end of the semester will be marked with either a group show, "Open Studios", or another type of public presentation, e.g. online.

Note : At Bard College Berlin there is a B/W darkroom for developing 135 and 120 film and for printing from 135 film negatives. For digital prints there is an ink jet printer up to size A3+ (color and B/W). Prerequisites to be able to use the B/W darkroom 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.

All classes will take place in classroom and in person as long as this is possible. In case of a lockdown or other restrictions some classes may be rescheduled and adapted to be held online over zoom.

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
- Purchase their own prints, film and photographic paper when needed
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Support your fellow students and treat them with respect. Everything revealed in class is confidential.

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2021: Some students may need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

Assessment

The students will be given a number of smaller assignments to be executed in class or for the next class. Apart from these, from around mid semester, each student will work on their own project on a given theme, and bring prints to class according to the weekly schedule.

Students will also be assessed on how they participate in class, how they support their fellow students with feedback and assistance, their ability to communicate with professor as well as

amongst themselves, and the quality of their final work. This includes their ambition to involve themselves 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.

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+). The Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where a Professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

Grade Breakdown

Participation and attendance in class (includes active participation in class, attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production, communication with Professor and other students): 50%

Homework, work in progress and in-class work: 10 %

Project and assignment presentations (includes end of semester presentations): 40 %

Anticipated Costs for this Class

Each student will be expected to purchase their own prints 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:

Prints:

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

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

For production of work prints, there are many cheaper ways available as well, (e.g. Rossmann, dm, and others). We recommend buying materials with other students – it's cheaper!

Schedule

Fall classes start on Friday, September 3 and run until Friday, December 17 with fall break planned from October 18 – October 24. Completion week is from December 13 through December 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/>

* Due to the current situation (covid 19) the schedule may have to be changed or adjusted on short notice.

*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 final prints made near campus – this is relatively nearby: Viertel vor 8 (<https://vv8.de>), Pappelallee 7/8, 10437 Berlin

(nr. M1 / U2 Eberwalderstr.) // (For current opening hours, see website)

For production of work prints, there are many cheaper ways available (e.g. Rossmann, dm, and others).

Please note: *It is NOT ACCEPTABLE to miss class time to pick up your prints.

Week 1: Sept 3

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

For next week, each student is required to bring one image (no files!) that means something to them, and which they have *not* made themselves. (*Please do not show this image to other students in the class before the presentation next week!*)

Week 2: Sept 10

Mandatory in-class facility orientations.

Each student presents the image they brought, according to instructions.

Another related photo assignment is to be executed in class.

Week 3: Sept 17

Slide presentation and discussion.

Assignment for next week: a portrait of somebody you know, according to specific instructions.

Week 4: Sept 24

Presentations and critique of assignment from last week.

Assignment for next week: image with a political message

Week 5: Oct 1

Presentations and critique of assignment from last week.

Group assignment based on existing images, involving photo and text work.

Week 6: Oct 8

Visit exhibition Redemption now – Yael Bartana at Jüdisches Museum Berlin,
Lindenstr. 9–14, 10969 Berlin

Week 7: Oct 15

Discussion about the exhibition from last week, impressions and thoughts.

The students will be given a common theme on which they will each develop their own photo project to work on for the rest of the semester.

One-on-one meetings with Carla, each 10 min.

FALL BREAK: Oct 18 – Oct 24

Week 8: Oct 29

5 Work Prints (work prints can be small: A5) are due with a follow up discussion on the way the re- search and ideas are developing for each student's project. The students make decisions (supported by Carla) on how they want to proceed with the project, technically and practically.

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

Week 9: Nov 5

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

Week 10: Nov 12

5 Work Prints are due in a one on one meeting (20 min each) between Carla and each student. Production time for the other students who are not in a meeting.

If there is time a smaller assignment will be executed in class.

Week 11: Nov 19

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

Week 12: Nov 26

FINAL CRITIQUE: 15 prints are due in addition to a 2-3 page paper that supports your images and your ideas surrounding the theme. These prints should be a selection of the best images the student has created throughout the semester.

Week 13: Dec 3

Visit exhibition Lee Friedlander at C/O Berlin, Hardenbergstr. 22-24, 10623 Berlin

Week 14: Dec 10

Talk about the impressions from the exhibition visit last week.

Getting all the work ready – either for show "Open Studios" at The Factory, if the current situation allows, or for other type of presentation (for example online).

Support your fellow students in their preparations.

Week 15: Dec 13 – Dec 17 Completion week / Inspection

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 – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

- 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 and social distancing conditions. Borrowing equipment is currently implemented by scheduling an advance appointment through this link: <https://janinaschabig.youcanbook.me/> 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

Photo Darkroom Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

Computer Pool and Media Lab – Kuckhoffstrasse 24 (first floor)

** Guidelines to be offered during orientations.