

FA323 Inside / Outside – documentary photo essays

Seminar Leader: Carla Åhlander
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

In this advanced level photography class each student will have the opportunity to conceptualize, plan, and execute their own documentary project, supported by discussions, assignments, and critiques in class. The participants are encouraged to define their project and the stories they want to tell based on their personal interests related to the genre. It can be a project exploring a social, cultural, political, or personal reality – and an excellent way to access a new city. We will explore how documentary photography and art photography increasingly overlap today and the exciting possibilities this intersection creates for us as photographers. Together we will also look at and discuss documentary work by historical and contemporary photographers. At the end of the semester each student will have finished their own documentary photo essay. This is a class for those of you who have had some photographic practice and are comfortable with your digital camera, as well as with editing and processing your images.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class unless otherwise asked.
- Actively participate in critiques and discussions.
- Respond to emails and/or text messages from the Professor in a timely manner.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- 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.
- Purchase their own prints, photographic paper and other material when needed.
- Support your fellow students and treat them with respect. Everything revealed in class is confidential.
- 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 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.

- Attendance of ALL classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will 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, the Professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence unless the Professor is contacted at least 1/2 an hour before class.

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 SPRING 2022: 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.

Assessment

Each student will during the entire semester work on their own photo essay, and bring prints to class according to the weekly schedule. Some materials may need to be purchased / acquired directly by each student. 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 the 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

Class participation (includes attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal, communication with Professor and other students): 50 %

Homework and in-class work: 25 %

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 25 %

Schedule

Week 1 January 31	Introduction to the class, introduction of each student to the class
Week 2 February 7	Mandatory in-class facility orientation <i>(could be switched to another date if necessary)</i> Slide presentation doc.essays Assignment: Each student will be assigned a photographer to present to the class
Week 3 February 14	Group photo excursion Place TBA Assignment: Bring 3 ideas for your own documentary photo essay
Week 4 February 21	Discuss each student's ideas for documentary projects. Photo assignment in class Student presentation of photographer Assignment: Project plan and/or first 10 images (work prints). Bring all your material.
Week 5 February 28	Present ideas and first images Student presentation of photographer Assignment: 5-10 work prints. Shoot at least 50 images. Bring all your material.
Week 6 March 7	Student presentation of photographer Assignment: 5-10 work prints. Shoot at least 50 images. Bring all your material.
Week 6 March 12 Saturday!	Exhibition visits: Meeting time and place TBA

Week 7 March 21	Reactions and discussion of the exhibitions from Saturday Student presentation of photographer Discuss at new material Film presentation (Neorealism) Assignment: 5-10 work prints. Shoot at least 50 images. Bring all your material.
Week 8 March 28	<i>no class</i>
Week 9 April 4	Student presentation of photographer one-on-one meetings with Carla Everyone else : production time Assignment: Continue project according to personal feedback.
Week 10 April 11	<i>no class (spring break)</i>
Week 11 April 18	<i>no class</i>
Week 12 April 25	Presentation possibilities for your projects. What is the statement? Is anything missing? Film presentation Enjoy Poverty Discussion
Week 13 May 2	Student presentation of photographer Address any technical or content issues. Written feedback to each student. Assignment: Finalize your photo essay.
Week 14 May 9	Presentation, oral and written, of your final work to the class (details in class) Preparation for student exhibition Open Studios
Week 15 May 16	Completion week / Inspection of spaces (Students are required to be on campus during completion week.) Evaluation

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:
<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>

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.
 - 1) 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.
 - 2) We strongly suggest personally visiting the facilities to inquire and reserve before borrowing equipment!
 - 3) AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
 - 4) 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.