

## FA285 Mesh/Weave/Network

Asad Raza

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Class meets Mondays 13:00-19:00 (bi-weekly)

Office Hours: by appointment

*NOTA BENE: first session is by Zoom from 15:00-17:00 on Monday, January 31st*

### Course Description

The mindset of Western modernity is one of separation: From the way societies are organised, based on principles of division (e.g. of labour and production), to the separation of knowledge into academic disciplines. For instance what used to be an integrated idea of “healing” is now separated into medical specialities corresponding to distinct parts of the bodies or organs. Also the arts have been separated: ritual forms have been divided into artistic disciplines to which individual sensory organs are allocated (visual arts for the eyes, music for the ears, dance for the body). Today, however, confronted with the economic, social and ecological consequences of this imperative of separation, the question that concerns us increasingly is how to bring everything that has been separated – nature from culture, individuals from their social ties, disciplines of knowledge from holistic forms of wisdom – back together. The question is how new forms and practices of association and connectedness can be constructed. This course is about modalities of the relational. In our workshop-sessions we’ll read, discuss, and practice various models of the intersubjective and the relational. We’ll reflect on theoretical concepts like Glissant’s Relation, Spivak’s weave, Margulis’ holobiont, Ingold’s mesh, Latour’s Actor Network Theory, and pair these ideas with activities in the classroom. We’ll discuss existing artworks that delve into this realm, and we’ll engage in embodied practices of movement, breathing, conversation and cooking that create a relational, intersubjective realm in the present. Each session will include cooking a soup in the factory classroom. The final project will be a choice between a practice-based artistic project or a theoretical essay on one of these conceptions of interpenetration.

### Requirements

Students are expected to 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.

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.

### Assessment & Grade breakdown

30% participation (in class, includes attendance and communication with Professor)

30% responses to readings

40% final project (media open, artistic or essayistic, due May 2nd)

### 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.

## Schedule

Mondays 13:00-19:00 (bi-weekly)

Week 1: Monday, January 31st, 2022 ZOOM SESSION PLEASE NOTE: 15.00 - 17.00

Introduction

Group discussion, breathing exercises

Reading: Thomas Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*

Bruno Latour, "Towards a Compositionist Manifesto"

Week 3: Monday, February 14th, 2022

Activity: cooking, relational movement

AV-orientation with Janina Schabig

Reading: Lynn Margulis, *Symbiotic Planet*

James Lovelock, *Novacene*

Week 5: Monday, February 28th, 2022 NOTE: class lasts till 20:30h

Activity: cooking, making soil, guest lecture Yasmil Raymond (Städelschule/Academy of Fine Arts, Frankfurt)

Reading: Édouard Glissant, *Poetics of Relation* and "A Field of Islands", Fred Moten, "To Consent Not to be a Single Being"

Week 7: Monday, March 14th, 2022

Activity: cooking, visit from Prem Krishnamurthy

Reading: Tim Ingold, *Being Alive*

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality vol. 3, The Care of the Self*

Week 9: Monday, March 28th, 2022

Activity: cooking, subtitling exercises

Presentation of first project idea

Reading: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, *The Spivak Reader*

Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter*

Week 11: April 11-16, 2022, no class

*Individual zoom meetings to discuss project drafts (dates will be communicated via email)*

Week 12: April 25th, 2022

Independent mentoring, group exercises

Week 13: May 9th, 2022

Presentation of final projects (10-15pg essay, artworks, film, sound, etc)

## 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](mailto: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.