

## FA 188 The Art of Making Videos

Seminar Leader: Janina Schabig  
Email: j.schabig@berlin.bard.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment & after class  
Location: The Factory at Eichenstr. 43

Course Times: Bi-weekly on Saturdays (10.00 - 13.00 & 14.00 - 17.30)  
Starting Sept. 12th, with one extra date on Oct. 17th

**Note:** Since our 1st class is after add/drop, I offer an information meeting on Friday, Sept. 04th during lunch time. Please send me a quick email to let me know that you are interested in attending.



Nam June Paik, *Electronic Superhighway: Continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii*, 1995, fifty-one channel video installation

### Course Description

This beginners' introduction course teaches the technical foundations of videomaking. You will be introduced to different kinds of cameras, learn all about your camera and how to use its manual settings, record and design your own sound and learn how to edit. We will look at feature films, documentaries, as well as experimental video art and vlogging to examine a range of creative shooting styles and will use that for inspiration in hands-on workshops and small assignments throughout the semester. We will work on individual as well as group projects and create a body of work ranging from short sound pieces to full videos. The goal of this course is to give you an understanding of the various creative choices within the art of making a video and the technical knowledge to help realize your visions.

## **Requirements**

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Be prepared to present assignments without reminder at the beginning of class.
- 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.

## 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 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

## Attendance

- Attendance of ALL classes is expected.
- More than one unexcused absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session) will significantly affect the participation grade for the course.
- Arriving late will be noted and after two late arrivals, the participation grade will be affected.
- Students are also 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.

Please note that 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, whether excused or unexcused.

The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2020:

Classes will be held in person on campus. Alternatives for personal attendance will be offered, if remote participation or asynchronous options become necessary.

## Assessment

### **Assignment # 1a - Video Exercise (30 - 60 seconds) due Sept. 26th**

Shoot and assemble 10-30 shots using simple cuts only, creating an aesthetically pleasing, thematic or story-oriented sequence. You can simply shoot and edit video footage for this assignment. You will need to include titles and export your video as an MP.4 with H.264 codec, 1920x1080 pixels max. A sound part can be recorded during part # 1b of the assignment and added later.

### **Assignment # 1b - Sound Exercise (30 - 60 seconds) due Oct. 10th**

Record and edit a sound scape. You may use ambient sounds, narration, recorded music, etc. The only requirement is that your edit needs to have multiple self-recorded sound sources, including room tone. Your sound scape can either stand alone, support your shots from assignment # 1a or be added to a second version of assignment # 1a as outlined in the handout for assignment # 1.

### **Assignment # 2 - Group Project (1 - 3 minutes) due Nov. 7th**

In groups of 2, shoot and edit a short video with synchronized sound and supporting footage (b-roll, observational or vérité) on a topic of your interest. The style of this assignment is open-ended: from “direct dialogue” to “experimental abstraction”. The only requirement is that you use synchronized sound in at least one scene. Therefore audio and video need to be recorded separately and synced in the editing process.

### **Assignment # 3 - Final Project (3 - 5 minutes) due Dec. 1st**

Produce a short video as your final project in any style and genre of your choice (experimental, documentary, fiction, vlogging, etc). Make use of the camera, sound and lighting knowledge you have learned in this course and include your class mates in your project. Filming is a team effort!

**In addition to these main assignments, there will be small homework and a quick tech quiz.**

## Important

Much of the class time will be devoted to screening and working on individual or group projects. You may work on your own laptop or the Media Lab computers. However, you must bring in an external USB hard drive to every class to edit and organize your videos on. Your harddrive should have min. 500GB storage and needs to be fast enough for video editing, f.ex. the “LaCie Rugged RAID”.

## 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**

**40%** Attendance and participation (including homework, research, presentations and discussions)

**20%** Assignment # 1

**10%** Assignment # 2

**20%** Assignment # 3

**10%** Quiz

### Explanation of Grading

Projects are graded on technical expertise and the conceptual and aesthetic quality of finished work.

**A** Exceptional work, participation in class and display of critical thinking and risk taking.

**A-** Excellent work, participation in class and display of critical thinking and risk taking.

**B+** Above average, participation in class and good critical discussions.

**B** Above average work. Complete work and attempt to put in the extra effort to participate in class and think more critically.

**B-** Good work. Participation in class. Completion of all class requirements.

**C+** Average work with promise. Participation in class. Completion of prints.

**C** Average work. Limited participation in class.

**C-** Less than average work. Some participation in class.

**D** Below average work. Incomplete work. Little class participation.

**F** Excessive absences, not enough work completed.

## Schedule

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### 1. Class: Saturday, Sept 12th from 10.00 - 13.00 & 14.00 - 17.30

- Introduction
- Slides: Video Inspiration
- Overview of syllabus and facilities
  
- *Mandatory in-class facility orientation by Joon Park at 2pm*
  
- Overview of equipment
- Slides: The Moving Image & The Video Camera
- Workshop: Camera - Shutter Speed, Aperture, ISO
- Overview of Assignment # 1

Homework:

- Start Video Inspiration Log
- Start Assignment # 1a - Video Exercise
- Organize external hard-drive for editing and sharing files

Resources:

Handout: Video Inspiration Log  
Handout: Shooting, Assignment # 1  
Handout: Editing & Exporting

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### 2. Class: Saturday, Sept. 26th from 10.00 - 13.00 & 14.00 - 17.30

- Screening & Discussion: Assignment # 1a
- Slides: Composition
- Workshop: Camera - Framing, Movement, Stabilization
- Workshop: Microphones & Recording Nonsync Sound
- Workshop: Editing & Exporting

Homework:

- Assignment # 1a - Video Exercise
- Assignment # 1b - Sound Exercise

Resources:

Handout: Sound

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**3. Class: Saturday, Oct. 10th from 10.00 - 13.00**

- Screening & Discussion: Assignment # 1a and b
- Time for questions & review of technical knowledge in preparation for quiz next week
- Slides: Video Inspiration - Synchronized Sound

Homework:

- Corrections on Assignment 1 or start collecting ideas for Assignment # 2
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**4. Class: Saturday, Oct. 17th from 10.00 - 13.00**

- Tech Quiz
- Workshop: Synchronized Sound & Lighting

Homework:

- Assignment # 2
- Prepare Video Inspiration Presentation, including ideas for your final project

Resources:

Handout: Synchronized Sound

Handout: Lighting

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*Fall Break: Monday, Oct. 19 - Sunday, Oct. 25*

*(midterm grades due: Oct. 30th)*

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**5. Class: Saturday, Nov. 07th from 10.00 - 13.00 & 14.00 - 17.30**

- Screening & Discussion: Assignment # 2
- Slides: Pre Production, Production, Post Production
  
- Presentation: Video Inspiration Log and ideas for final project
- Time for individual meetings to further discuss and prepare your final project

Homework:

- Start Assignment # 3
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**6. Class: Saturday, Nov. 21st from 10.00 - 13.00 & 14.00 - 17.30**

- Fieldtrip to film museum, video exhibition or production studio, tbd
- Individual meetings to discuss progress and continue work on final project

Homework:

- ☐ Continue working on Assignment # 3
- ☐ Final cut due on google class drive by Tuesday, Dec. 1st at 10pm

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**7. Class: Saturday, Dec. 5th from 10.00 - 13.00 & 14.00 - 17.30**

- Screening & Discussion: Assignment # 3
- Collective reflection on our class
  
- Special Guest: Screening and Q&A with filmmaker

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**8. Class: Saturday, Dec. 19th**

- Completion week
- Reserved for make-up class time, if needed

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*This syllabus is subject to change. Possible changes will be discussed in class. The most recent, updated syllabus, homework and other class materials are available on the [Google Class Drive](#).*

## Facility Guidelines:

### **The Factory Policy - Eichenstrasse 43**

- “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.
- 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).
- 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.
- Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
- 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.
- No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside the workshop and studio 6.
- 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.
- If BCB workshop tools must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, please contact The Studio Arts Manager (by appointment).
- 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.
- 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.
- Contact Studio Arts Manager directly with any questions: [j.park@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:j.park@berlin.bard.edu)



### **The AV Room Policy – Eichenstrasse 43 (upstairs)**

- 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.
- 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 and closed during official BCB holidays.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- AV equipment will be given out only to those students responsible in organizing, picking up as well as returning their items IN PERSON and ON TIME. No exceptions.
- Any item returned late will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day.
- 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).
- Any item missing will be subject to patron reimbursement for its value (or under special circumstances, replacement, at the discretion of AV Staff).
- Any item damaged, malfunctioning is expected to be reported to Staff upon check-in.
- Please, contact AV Staff directly with any questions: [av@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:av@berlin.bard.edu)

### **Computer Lab Facilities – Kuckhoffstr. 24 (upstairs)**

\*\* Guidelines offered during orientations.