

FA288 Sonic Narration: An Introduction to Radio Drama

Seminar Leader: Noam Brusilovsky (he/him)

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Course times: Thu 15:45-19:00

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course aims to introduce the theoretical, aesthetic and practical aspects of artistic radiophonic creation processes. The course will consist of readings of canonical texts on radio history and theory, listening to significant milestones in the history of English-speaking radio drama and pursuing a creative exploration of the possibilities of storytelling by acoustic means. During the course, students will collect audio material (sounds, field recordings, interviews etc.) that will be processed into a short auditory final project. We will visit Haus des Rundfunks, one of the first radio studios in the world, which now belongs to Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg. The course demands active participation in discussions, presentations and creative tasks.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.
- Initiate appointments with the Professor or arts staff outside of class time.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Make sure to borrow A/V equipment on time in order to be able to perform the required tasks.
- Respond to emails from their professors in a timely manner.
- Inform their professors at the beginning of the semester if photos of students, their artwork or their 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

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 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. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

Assessment

Since this course consists of theory and practice, students will be requested to read, work weekly on auditive tasks and submit a final auditive project in length of 5-10 minutes.

During this course students will be requested to work on three theoretical presentations of 10 minutes each. The students will be able to decide on the topics of their presentations together with the instructor.

Every week the students will be requested to perform a simple auditive task that will be presented and discussed in class.

Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments 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 should be submitted by the new deadline agreed upon by both parties. 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.

Required Texts

Digital copies of the required readings will be circulated to students in advance.

Grade Breakdown

Class participation (includes attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal, communication with Professor and other students): 30%

Homework and in-class work: 30%

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 40 %

Schedule

Week 1: Sep 1st - Introduction to radio histories

- To prepare: For the introductory class all students will be asked to prepare short presentations (5 min. long) regarding the evolution of radio broadcasting in their home countries. Please do some research online to prepare this presentation.
- Watching a short movie about the evolution of radio broadcasting in the USA.
- Reading selected chapters from Bathgate, Gordon. Radio Broadcasting: A History of the Airwaves. Yorkshire - Philadelphia (2020).

Week 2: Sep. 8th

- AV Equipment and software introduction: Students will learn how to borrow and operate the AV equipment and the required sound editing softwares.
- Watching and discussing the movie "American Experience: War of the Worlds"

Week 3: Sep. 15th

- To prepare: a short field recording - an immersive walk through the city.
- Students will present and discuss their homework in class
- One student will be asked to prepare a 10 minutes presentation on Bertolt Brecht
- Reading Bertolt Brecht's texts on radio

Week 4: Sep. 22nd

- To prepare: tell a story through sounds and noises.
- Students will present and discuss their homework in class.
- One student will be asked to prepare a 10 minutes presentation on Samuel Beckett
- Reading Samuel Beckett's radio play "Words and Music"

Week 5: Sep. 29th

- To prepare: present a short interview not conducted by yourselves (5 minutes).
- Students will present and discuss their homework in class: Listening and discussing different radio productions of Samuel Beckett's radio play "Words and Music".

Week 6: Oct. 6th

- To prepare: a short interview conducted by yourselves (5 minutes).
- Students will present and discuss their homework in class:
- Assignment in class: creating encounters that have never occurred through existing interviews

Week 7: Oct. 13th (class will take place remotely)

- Presentation of contemporary English-speaking fictional radio drama (To prepare: students will be asked to present selected examples to the class)

Week 8: ON SUNDAY Oct. 23rd (!!!)

- An excursion to the Prix Europa competition in Potsdam and listening to contemporary radio programs.

Fall break: [Oct 24 – Oct 30]

Week 9: November 3rd

- Discussing impressions from the Prix Europa competition
- Presentation of contemporary English speaking non-fictional investigative radio projects (To prepare: students will be asked to present selected examples to the class)

Week 10: November 10th

- The Musician, composer and producer Tobias Purfürst (@Akrobat) will give a workshop on the production of electronic music and about the narration potential of music in the radiophonic work.

Week 11: November 17th

- Historian Ben Miller (FU Berlin) will present and discuss his well-known podcast and book "Bad Gays".

Week 12: November 24th

- A visit at Haus des Rundfunks (Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg) - including a visit at the radio drama studios, a talk with the senior editor Juliane Schmidt and a technical lecture by a sound engineer
- To prepare: Students will be required to prepare short presentations about the history of the building, about evolving of the radio station and about the role of radio in National Socialism.

Week 13: December 1st

- To prepare: A written description (up to one page) of the final project.
- Workshop on developing and pitching an artistic project.
- Discussing concepts for the final project.

Week 14: December 8th

- Workshop on feedback methods.
- Collecting feedback from the classmates about the final projects (during the process).
- Watching a recording of Milo Rau's Performance "Hate Radio"
- Wrap up

End of Week 14/ date tbc:

- Presenting the final projects

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 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 (upstairs)

** Guidelines to be offered during orientations.