

TH161 Performance Practice

Seminar Leader: Siegmar Zacharias

Course Times: Mondays 15:45-21:45 including 1hr dinner break

29.8.; 5.9.; 12.9.; 26.9.;17.10.;31.10.;14.11.; 21.11. (final presentation)

Email: sm.zach@gmx.de (subject: bard)

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Performance making is a way of expressing embodied experiences as well as holding space, creating communities, processing and critiquing societal norms. In the 21st century it has a broad remit, appearing in different contexts such as theaters, galleries, the street and the net. In this course we will explore some of the tools for performance making. These will range from writing exercises, the construction of rule-based structures or scores for movement, investigating the possibilities of the urban environment, and learning from the strategies of other performance makers. We will also visit topical shows of the Berlin performance scene. We will discuss and try out different forms of audience arrangements from the traditional frontal configuration, to parkour/guiding, installation, durational and one-on-one performances. This course is open to those interested in creating a performance for the first time.

(This is a practice-based course where you will be required to participate and present ongoing work)

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during the entire class time, including off-campus trips. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with the instructor or Arts Staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails from the instructor in a timely manner.
- Inform the instructor at beginning of the semester if photos of student, 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 end of semester inspection of spaces (including any storage offered). Failure to remove works or return spaces clean and empty may result in final grade penalization. Please note: 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 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 III Academic Misconduct.

Attendance

- Attendance of all classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will significantly 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 instructor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence.

Assessment

Students will be asked to engage in all in class exercises. They will devise a daily practice that they will present in the end of term presentation. The midterm assessment will be text based (deadline 15th Oct.) The end of term assessment will manifest as a format the student chose to develop. (21st November).

Some materials may need to be purchased by the student at their own expense depending on individual project goals.

Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with the instructor as well amongst themselves. This also includes their ambition 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 instructor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where the instructor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown

The percentage grade allotted to each project / presentation, and to classroom participation and assignments

Class participation (includes attendance, and maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal) Communication habits with the instructor and among other students (feedback practice) 35 %

Development of presentation formats (concept, methodology, material specificity; end of semester presentations): 65 %

Syllabus

We will visit one to two performances. There are no assigned readings currently. If a reading is assigned, a copy will be circulated. Students do not need to purchase any books.

August 29: INTRODUCTIONS

Introduction to the course. Introduction to Siegmar Zacharias. Introduction to peer to peer learning. What is contemporary Performance? What is a daily practice? Introduction of the task for final presentation. Introduction to performance making methods.

STORYTELLING – THE ARTEFACT OF SELF

exercises, exploring formats, feed back

(the work of Melanie Jame Wolf, Gucci Chunk alias Göksu Kunak)

September 5: WORKING WITH OBJECTS

Narrative; Non-Narrative Formations

exercises, exploring formats, feed back

(the work of Eva Meyer Keller, Kate McIntosh, Clement Layes)

RULE-BASED DEVISING

exercises, exploring formats, feed back

(the work of Forced Entertainment, every house has a door)

September 12: DOCUMENTARY APPROACHES

exercises, exploring formats, feed back

(the work of Rimini Protokoll, Simone Dede Ayivi)

September 26: DRIFTING THE CITY

exercises, exploring formats, feed back

(the work of Wrights and Sights, plan b. Gob Squad, Sabine Zahn)

October 17: Compilation CONTEXTUALISATION of performance practices.

Reading: Erin Menning: Ten propositions for research-creation

Discussion.

October 31: NEW MATERIALITY

exercises, exploring formats, feed back

(the work of Agatha Siniarska, Siegmar Zacharias)

November 14: SCORES & PARTNER WORK & ONE/ONE

exercises, exploring formats, feed back

(the work of Antonia Baer, Przemek Kamiński)

November 21:

end of term presentation

feedback session

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.
- 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 (upstairs)

** Guidelines to be offered during orientations.