

# FA308 Advanced Photography: Finding the Stories

Seminar Leader: Carla Åhlander

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course schedule: Wednesdays, 9 – 12.15 am (NOTE: no class on October 9 and 16)

Double-session workshop on Saturday, October 19, 11 am – 5 pm

## Course Description

This course combines photo analysis and practical photo work. This is a critique-based class where consciousness will be raised of what a narrative constitutes and how the meaning of a photograph is created. In addition to producing their own photo series, the participants will become skilled at looking at, reading and talking about photographs. We will deal with issues such as subjectivity and objectivity, private and public, as well as technical issues like light situations. The workshop will include collaborations between students – together we will explore a variety of aesthetic, practical and conceptual issues, asking questions like "What is my attitude to the topic?" or "Where does this narrative begin or end?"

Each student will focus on and develop one (larger) or several (thematically connected) series over the course of the semester. They will also produce a written text that explores the process and concepts behind the work.

In class there will be photographic assignments which are to be presented during the same class – for this, everyone needs to bring their own digital camera (phone camera works). For their own project, each student must have his or her own camera, digital or otherwise.

In consultation with Carla Åhlander, each student decides which technical process they wish to work with for their project. According to this, the prints can be analogue or digitally made, colour or B/W etc.

**Note:** At Bard College Berlin there is a B/W darkroom for developing 135 and 120 film and for printing from 135 film negatives. For digital prints there is an ink jet printer up to size A3+ (color and B/W).

Prerequisites to be able to use the B/W darkroom are (for BCB students) the Introduction to Photography course. Students from other institutions must submit 5 Black and White photographic prints showing that they know how to use a B/W darkroom.

## Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.
- Initiate appointments with Professor or Arts Staff outside of class time.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.

- 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.
- 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
- Purchase their own prints, film and photographic paper when needed
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Support your fellow students and treat them with respect. Everything revealed in class is confidential.

### Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Syllabi should note that, 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, Professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence.

### Assessment

Each student will work on one project during the whole semester and bring prints to class according to the weekly schedule. In addition to this, a number of smaller assignments are to be executed in class. 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 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+). Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professor 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

Participation and attendance in class (includes attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production, communication with Professor and other students): 50 %

Work in progress and in-class work: 10 %

Project presentations (includes end of semester presentation): 40 %

### Anticipated Costs for this Class

Although each student will receive 2 rolls of film provided by BCB, each student will be expected to purchase their own film and prints for this class.

There are not that many photo stores in Berlin but here are a few where you can go to buy your materials:

#### General Materials:

Fotopioniere (they give a 5% student discount with your student ID) ([fotopioniere.com](http://fotopioniere.com)) Karl-Marx-Allee 87, 10243 Berlin-Friedrichshain (nr. U5 Strausberger Platz or Weberwiese)

#### FOTOIMPEX GmbH

Alte Schönhauser Str. 32b, 10119 Berlin-Mitte (nr. U2 Weinmeister Str. - south exit!) Opening times: Mon - Sat: 12.00 – 20.00 Uhr

#### Film options:

The cost of a roll of B/W 35mm film can be between €4.50 - €7:

\*FOTOIMPEX CHM 400 Kleinbildfilm 135/36

= €4.15 (\*available at Fotolmpex

only: [www.fotoimpex.de](http://www.fotoimpex.de))

ILFORD Delta 400ASA 135/36 = €5.95 (based on

Fotolmpex website) KODAK TRI-X 400ASA 135/36

= €6.09 (based on Fotolmpex website)

#### Paper options:

ADOX Easy Print RC 311 - Hochglänzend/Glossy - 18x24 / 25 Blatt - Gradation: variabel

= +/- €13.00 (Only at Fotolmpex)

Foma Variant - Multigrade - glossy or satin - 18x24 / 50 sheets

= +/- €23.00 (at FotoPioneer)

#### Processing:

Viertel vor 8 (<https://vv8.de>), Pappelallee 7/8, 10437 Berlin (nr. M1 / U2 Eberwalderstr.) Opening times: Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm

Jetfoto, Dircksenstr. 89, 10178 Berlin (nr.

Alexanderplatz) Opening times: Mon -

Fri: 9 - 8pm, Sat 11 - 8pm

Pixel Grain, Rosenstraße 17, 10178 Berlin

(nr. Alexanderplatz) Opening times:

Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm, Sunday 2 - 7pm

For production of work prints, there are many cheaper ways available as well, (e.g. Rossmann, dm, and others). We recommend buying materials with other students - it's cheaper!

## Schedule

Fall 2019 classes start on Wednesday, September 2 and run until Friday, December 20 with fall break planned from Monday, October 28 – Sunday, November 3. Completion week is from December 16 - 20. Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:

<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/>

<https://berlin.bard.edu/for-students/academic-calendars/>

Classes missed due to federal holidays will not be rescheduled. Classes missed due to conferences or due to illness (of the Professor) will be rescheduled]

### Weekly Schedule\*

\*There may be adjustments to the timing of assignments as well as adjustments of content as course progresses. All students will be informed of any new expectations and / or deadlines.

If students would like to have their film processed near the Bard campus - please use this lab:

Viertel vor 8 (<https://vv8.de>), Pappelallee 7/8, 10437 Berlin

(nr. M1 / U2 Eberwalderstr.) // Opening times: Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm

For production of work prints, there are many cheaper ways available (e.g. Rossmann, dm, and others).

Please note: \*It is NOT ACCEPTABLE to miss class time to pick up your processed film or prints.

Week 1: Sept 4

Introduction to the class, introduction of each student to the class

All students are required to prepare a presentation of a minimum of 3 ideas for a project which they plan on working on for the entire semester. **Due next week on September 11.**

The presentation can include drawings, photos, images of all sorts, video clips, text etc.

Week 2: Sept 11

Mandatory in-class facility orientations, including the Factory and distribution of materials: (film, photographic paper etc).

Presentations of project ideas by each student.

Each student will develop and work on their chosen project during the rest of the semester.

Week 3: Sept 18

5 Work Prints (work prints can be small: A5) are due with a follow up discussion on the way the re-

search and ideas are developing for each student's project.

The students (together with Carla Åhlander) decide which technical process they wish to work with for their project. According to this, the prints can be analogue or digitally made, colour or B/W, etc.

Please note, every time images are due in class it is expected that the student bring their previous images as well.

Week 4: Sept 25

5 Work Prints are due with a follow up discussion on the way the research and ideas are developing for each student's project.

Week 5 Oct 2

Guest artist talk

Week 6: NOTE: NO CLASS ON OCTOBER 9 AND OCTOBER 16

Week 7: **NOTE: Saturday, October 19**, 11 am – 5 pm

Double-session workshop with Carla Åhlander and Ella Ziegler  
"Controversies and demonstrations"

Week 8: Oct 23

7 work Prints are due in a one on one meeting (15 min each) between Carla Åhlander and each student. Production time

FALL BREAK: OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3

Week 9: Nov 6

15 Work Prints due in addition to a 1+ page paper which corresponds to the students research and ideas thus far on the project. This should include 8 of the previously best images the student has already presented to class and 7 new images.

One on one meetings (5 min each) with each person in the class between the professor and each student

Week 10: Nov 13

5 Work Prints are due with a follow up discussion on the way the research and ideas are developing for each student's project.

Week 11: Nov 20

5 Work Prints are due in a one on one meeting (10 min each) between Carla and each student. Production time / Darkroom time for the other students who are not in a meeting.

Week 12: Nov 27

FINAL CRITIQUE: 15 prints are due in addition to a 2-3 page paper that supports your images and your ideas surrounding your theme. These prints should be a selection of the best images the student has created throughout the semester.

Week 13: Dec 4

Working with family photos

Week 14: Dec 11

Getting all the work ready for show "open studios" at the factory.

Support of fellow students.

Assignment in class if there is time.

December 12

Preparations for and installation of "Open Studios" at the factory

December 13:

Evening: "Open Studios" at the factory

Week 15: Completion week / darkroom cleanup / Inspection

## 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 – Eichenstrasse 43 (upstairs)

- 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. 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 (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](mailto: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](mailto:av@berlin.bard.edu)

## MacLab and Photo Darkroom Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

\*\* Guidelines to be offered during orientations.