

FA109 Fundamentals of Painting

Seminar Leader: **John Kleckner**

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Course Times: **Tue 09:30-12:45**

Office Hours: **Mon, Tue, Thu 13:00-14:00 or by appointment**

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the materials, techniques, and concepts of painting; it establishes the foundation for studio practice using oil- and water-based paints. Through practical demonstrations students will learn about specific qualities of various paints, how to stretch canvases, prepare painting surfaces, and apply paint using traditional and experimental techniques. Assignments will cultivate an understanding of color mixing, hue, value, chroma, warm/cool temperature, composition building, perspectival space, mark-making, surface texture, and optical effects of shadow and light. Students will work from direct observation, use photographic references, and develop abstractions. Studio work will be supported by readings, discussions, and slide presentations that engage relevant themes in contemporary painting. Special attention will be paid in classroom discussions to painters (past and present) with strong connections to the city of Berlin. Class size is limited to ensure each student has adequate studio space and extended time with the professor for individual feedback and support. Evaluations and group critiques occur at midterm and at the end of the term. The semester culminates in the “Open Studios” exhibition and the “ArtSeen” printed publication of student artworks. Studio work is the priority, so this course will require a significant amount of time working outside of class sessions.

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 the 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

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 of all classes is expected.
- More than one unexcused absence will significantly lower the final grade for the course.
- Tardiness after 10 minutes will be considered an absence.
- Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling / travel conflict, the Professor must be informed in advance.
- The full BCB attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.
- *SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2023*: for the health of the BCB community all students and instructors should refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. A reasonable effort will be made to offer alternatives to in-person attendance when needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options. These alternatives will be introduced on a case-by-case basis. For those students requiring temporary remote participation, individual video calls between student and instructor will replace in-person lessons. Please feel welcome to contact the instructor with questions about this any time.

Assessment

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work.

Students are assessed on their willingness to experiment, their contributions exchanging feedback during critiques, and their ability to work effectively throughout the semester. Grading will reflect the ambition, time-investment, and overall quality of the finished artworks. This assessment will also include the student's ability to adequately manage their time for working and clean-up of materials and spaces used at BCB.

70% Work (meaning all artworks made for class, presented for critiques, and assignments)
30% Attendance, participation in discussions, and professionalism

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class session. Detailed information about assignments and projects will be given in class. Assignments and the dates described in this syllabus are subject to change by the instructor. Students will be notified of any changes to the syllabus in class and via email. Students must regularly check their Bard email accounts.

Students are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor during office hours to discuss assignments and seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

IMPORTANT– Please be aware that basic art materials will be provided, though some materials may need to be purchased directly by each student at their own expense, depending on individual project goals.

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.

Schedule

- September 5* Introduction to course, expectations, studio, and materials. Set-up workstations. Overview of responsible studio etiquette, safe handling / disposal of materials. Value & tonal studies, sketching elements of a composition using only Titanium White, Ultramarine Blue, Burnt Umber (acrylic paint.)
Assignment: Make value studies. Research living painters. Read Amy Sillman's "On Color."
- September 12* Discussion of the properties of various paints (acrylic, oil, gouache, enamel, etc.) Surface preparations. Gesso, imprägnierung, acrylic medium, sizing, priming, (non-)absorbent grounds, canvas, paper, cardboard. Students prepare heavy paper with gesso, imprägnierung, and acrylic paint (titanium white or toned). Share painter research. Discuss assigned essay. Review monochrome value studies.
Assignment: 100 Color Grid assignment (from Ken Buhler, Bard Annandale.)
- September 19* Mixing accurate colors in acrylic. Basic color theory, Hue-Value-Chroma, crispening (color relativity), local color, color constancy & temperature, Albers color exercises.
Assignment: Mix acrylic paint to match 9 found colors (swatches.) Finish 1 acrylic painting exploring color temperature & color relativity.
- September 26* Stretching canvases. Introducing working with oil paint. Direct and Indirect painting methods. Explain "Fat over lean," glazing, and "alla prima."
Assignment: Begin Indirect still-life piece, working in "lean" paint, then blocking in values once dry.
- October 3* No class today – German Federal Holiday
- October 10* Continue working on Indirect oil paintings. Adding color by glazing and scumbling. Slide presentation & discussion.
Assignment: Finish these works by the next session.
- October 17* Midterm group critiques today, assessing work and progress thus far.
- October 24* Fall Break ~~~ Fall Break ~~~ Fall Break
- October 31* Direct oil painting technique– *alla prima*. Paint handling, gesture or "painterliness," surface texture, quality of brushstrokes-- heavy handed or lightly touched.
Assignment: Finish direct technique paintings by the next session.
- November 7* *Faces, figures, photos*. Using photographic references, how and why. What is lost or gained when painting from photos. What are the possibilities, problems, and politics of translating photos into hand-painted pictures. Appropriated vs self-generated pictures. Considering the politics of the gaze, who is looking, what is being seen or

	shown. Slide presentation & discussion
Assignment:	Begin photo/figure painting.
<i>November 14</i>	Gallery tour and/or studio visit.
Assignment:	Finish photo/figure painting.
<i>November 21</i>	Abstracting from nature. Abstract vs non-objective art. Slide presentation & discussion.
Assignment:	Begin Final Projects
<i>November 28</i>	Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Final Projects.
Assignment:	Finish Final Project
<i>December 5</i>	Installation of artworks. Presentation & critique of Final Projects.
<i>December 12</i>	Presentation & critique of Final Projects, continued.
<i>December 15</i>	“Open Studios” exhibition from 4-8pm (date & time subject to change.)
<i>Dec 18-22</i>	Completion Week. Studios must be clean, artworks & personal materials removed.

Facility Guidelines:

Direktorenhaus at Monopol (Provinzstraße 40-44)

- 1) The Direktorenhaus at Monopol (Provinzstraße 40-44) 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 Direktorenhaus. Chip access to the Direktorenhaus is from 7am to 10pm everyday during the semester.
- 2) Students agree to only use the common spaces that are available for their needs, and must respect private spaces that are off-limits.
- 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) 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. Electrical items must be unplugged when not in use.
- 7) If BCB workshop tools must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, please contact The Studio Arts Manager (by appointment).
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Contact Studio Arts Manager directly with any questions: j.park@berlin.bard.edu