

FA308 Advanced Photography

Finding the Stories

Seminar Leader: Carla Åhlander
Email: c.ahlander@berlin.bard.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

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 narrative 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?"

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). The students will also be given assignments to be executed from one week to the next and presented in class. Each student will focus on and develop one larger project from around the middle of the semester until the end. For their own project, each student must have their own digital camera. They will also produce a written text that explores the process and concepts behind the work. The end of the semester will be marked with either a group show or another type of public presentation, e.g. online.

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 unless otherwise asked.
- Actively participate in critiques and discussions.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails from their professors in a timely manner.

- Inform their professors 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.
- Purchase their own prints, photographic paper and other material when needed.
- Support your fellow students and treat them with respect. Everything revealed in class is confidential.
- 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.

- Attendance of ALL classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will 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 professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence unless the professor is contacted at least 1/2 an hour before class.

Students should not attend class when they test positive for COVID-19. Professors need not offer the option of remote participation in classes.

Bard College Berlin may 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

Assessment

In this course, students will be given a number of smaller assignments to be executed in class, for the next class or over a longer period of time. Some materials may need to be purchased / acquired directly by each student. Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with professor 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.

The assignments required for the course are included in the syllabus but all details will be given in class. If a student misses a class, the student themselves is required to find out relevant information about assignments from the instructor or other students in the class.

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 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.

Grade Breakdown

Class participation (includes attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production, communication with professor and other students): 50 %

Homework and in-class work: 25 %

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 25 %

Schedule

| | |
|--|---|
| Week 1 September 4 (1) | Introduction of the course, introduction of each student to the class Assignment in class: The Beginning (details will be given in class). |
| Week 2 September 11 (2) | Mandatory in-class facility orientation <i>(could be switched to another date if necessary)</i> A photo assignment to be executed in class. Assignment for Sept 18: Reading of a text which will be distributed in class. |
| Week 3 September 18 (3) | Due: Reading of a text to be discussed in class In-class photo assignment. Assignment for Sept 25: 3 images (details will be given in class) |
| Week 4 September 25 (4) | Due: 3 images (details will be given in class) Group assignment in class. Assignment for Oct 2: 5 images to a poem chosen in class |
| Week 5 October 2 (5) | Due: 5 images to the chosen poem Slide presentation Assignment for Oct 9: 1-5 images with a (political) message |
| Week 5 October 7 SATURDAY! (6) | Exhibition visits: Meeting time and place TBA |
| Week 6 October 9 (7) | Due: 1-5 images with a (political) message Discussion of the exhibitions visited on 7 October. Slide presentation. The students will be given a common theme on which they will each develop their own photo project to work on for the rest of the semester. Assignment for Oct 16: Three ideas for a project on the given theme |
| Week 7 October 16 (8) | Due: Three ideas for a project. Photo assignment in class. Assignment for November 6: First (minimum) 10 images for your project – <i>files or prints!</i> Work prints can be small: A5. |
| October 23 <i>fall break – no class</i> | <i>no class – fall break</i> |

| | |
|---|---|
| Week 8 October 30 <i>no class</i> | <i>no class</i> |
| Week 9 November 6 (9) | <p>Due: First (minimum) 10 images for your project, files or prints (work prints can be small: A5) with a follow up discussion on the way the re-search and ideas are developing for each student's project. The students now make decisions on how they want to proceed with the project, technically and practically.</p> <p>Please note, every time images are due in class it is expected that the student bring their previous images as well.</p> <p>Assignment for November 13: 10 images for your project (<i>files or prints!</i>) + reading of a text that will be distributed in class.</p> |
| Week 10 November 13 (10) | <p>Due: 10 images for your project (<i>files or prints!</i>) Discussion about the text from last class.</p> <p>Assignment for Nov 27: bring 5 prints and all your material in digital form</p> |
| Week 11 November 20 (11) | Exhibition visit (details TBA) |
| Week 12 November 27 (12) | <p>One-on-one meetings with Carla When you are not in a meeting with Carla: Write on the text about your project.</p> <p>Due: 5 work prints with a follow up discussion on the way the research and ideas are developing for each student's project. Bring all your material in digital form and all previous prints!</p> <p>Assignment for Dec 4: 5 work prints + the finished text about your project</p> |
| Week 13 December 4 (13) | <p>Due: 5 work prints with a follow up discussion on the way the research and ideas are developing for each student's project.</p> <p>Due: the text about your project</p> <p>Assignment for Dec 11: Finalize your photo series including means of presentation for the show</p> |
| Week 14 December 11 (14) | <p>Due: Presentation (visual and verbal) of your final project to the class (details in class) Evaluations online! Last preparations for end of semester exhibition/presentation</p> |
| Week 15 December 18 (15) | <p>Completion week / Inspection of spaces Evaluation Students are required to be on campus during completion week.</p> |

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. Borrowing equipment is currently implemented by scheduling an advance appointment through this link: <https://avroom.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.