

TH210 Composition In Real-Time:
Introduction to the Performing Arts

Seminar Leader: Jeremiah Day
Email: j.day@berlin.bard.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This course will offer participants the basis for experiencing performance as a mode of address, a tool of research, a historical field and a personal practice. The course is geared toward practical experimentation (making and doing) with established methods that can lead to new results of our own. From the start we will work together in the dance studio, anchoring the course in methods that come from “new dance,” in particular Simone Forti’s *Logomotion* speech and movement improvisation form. This core will enable us to consider historical paradigms of drama as well as what Happenings artist Allan Kaprow called “non-theatrical performance” and the way time-based strategies have developed so strongly in the visual arts. The course will introduce an embodied approach to the subject matter, and we’ll reach out to the city around us, with a Berlin map in one hand and the work of Hannah Arendt in the other, drawing from the unique insights offered by her method of thinking, based on “people, not concepts.” This course is open to those interested in creating a performance for the first time as well offering new tools for developing artists of all genres.

Requirements

- come prepared for physical activity, speak and listen, present and pay attention to the presentations of others
- completion of all assignments on time to maintain group work-flow
- bring paper+pen, clothes you like to move in for each session
- access to a paper copy of *Men In Dark Times* by Hannah Arendt

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.
- Respond to emails from their professors in a timely manner.
- Inform their professors at the beginning of the semester if photos of the 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 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 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

Participation will be assessed primarily through commitment to process and participation, with completed work framed as part of effort. Homework is in this way part of participation.

At the same time the class will have three deliverables organized around source-topic, with format or mode of address (paper or performance or talk, poetic or expository) to be negotiated.

- a. *Global Performance Traditions* – informal, small-scale “show and tell” on chosen topic
- b. Mid-term - *Post-War European Performance* – larger scale research project, can take form of history, critical reflection, or demonstration
- c. *Final Project* – to be discussed

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 / rehearsal, communication with Professor and other students): 35%

Homework and in-class work: 35%

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 30%

Schedule

Week 1 September 6:

Part A. Course Introduction - methods, focus, mutual understandings

Part B. Real-Time-Composition #1 – New Dance Legacies – Introduction to post-modern dance and its educational, socio-political, technical and artistic aspects.

Homework: Berlin journal

Week 2 September 13:

Part A. Hannah Arendt & Berlin – ‘The People’ In Dark Times – Introduction to Hannah Arendt’s work

Part B. Practice – “Landscapes” – Real-Time-Composition score

Homework: Watch Hannah Arendt film; start Global Performance Traditions Research

Week 3 September 20:

Part A: Greek Tragedy – Theory, Practice

Homework: Global Performance Traditions Research; Allan Kaprow’s “Non-Theatrical Performance”

Week 4 September 27:

Part A: Global Performance Traditions Presentations

Part B: Real-Time-Composition #2

Homework: Arendt's "Bertolt Brecht: 1898-1956"

Week 5 October 4:

Field Trip *4 Hour session*

Homework: Arendt's Rosa Luxemburg: 1871-1919 and start Mid-Term group research project – Post-War European Performance Presentations

Week 6 October 11:

Performance and Ritual: Happenings, Healings, Contact Improvisation -with special guest.

Homework: Mid-Term group research project – Post-War European Performance Presentations

Week 7 October 18:

Part A. Post-war Japan: Butoh, Guttai, Hi-Red Center, Yayoi Kusama

Part B. Mid-term presentations

Week October 25 – BREAK:

Week 8 – November 1 – NO MEETING

Week 9 November 8:

Real-Time-Composition #4 with guest teacher

Homework: List of Ideas For Final Project

Week 10 November 15:

Field Trip – 4 Hour Session

Part A. Hannah Arendt and Performing Memory

Part B. Individual Tutorials – Final Project Planning

Homework: Final Project Sketch

Week 11 November 22:

Contemporary practices: Stand-up, Tik-Tok, TED Talks

Homework: Final Project Plan

Week 12 November 29:

Working session towards Final Project

Homework: Final Project Work

Week 13 December 6:

Real-Time-Composition #5

Homework: Final Project Work

Week 14 December 13:

4 hour session 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. 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.