

FA250 Immersive Spatial Experiences

Seminar Leader: Magdalena Emmerig (she/her)

Email: m.emmerig@berlin.bard.edu

Course times: Mon 14:00-17:15

Office Hours: by appointment

In this practicing arts seminar, students will learn about various forms of spatial design. The idea is to create immersive spaces. In the context of theater, immersion describes an experience in which the division between stage and audience is non-existent and the visitor becomes part of the play. It can also describe a spatial experience in which the visitor encounters a closed, artificial world. The course aims to convey an artistic exploration of architecture and an introduction to spatial design. What narratives does a space contain and how can the experience of the space be designed? In the seminar we will explore different artistic approaches. We will look at architectural works by visual artist Gregor Schneider, stage designs by Anna Viebrock and the artist duo Vegard Vinge and Ida Müller. We will visit theater performances and exhibitions to encounter and reflect on spatial experiences. During the semester, students will collect visual material, from which mood boards will be developed. They will learn to elaborate a conceptual approach for their own spatial setting and explore different modes of visualization, from drawing/painting to model building. In the second half of the semester, the focus will be on working with the model to create different kinds of atmosphere, for example through spatial changes and lighting design. In addition, we will do a workshop on theater lighting to become familiar with varieties of lighting materials. At the end of the semester, each student presents their own spatial design.

Requirements

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.
- Provide basic tools and material for sketching and model building.
- 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.
- 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

Students will be requested to do research, continuously develop their project and submit a model of their course project in scale 1:25 or 1:50. Time for model building is not scheduled during class hours.

Each student will be asked to give a 10 minute theoretical presentation during class time. Students can choose on the topic of their presentation together with the instructor.

Feedback and group discussion is an essential part of this 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): 30 %

Homework and in-class work: 40 %

Project presentations and feedback (includes end of semester presentations): 30 %

Schedule

Please note: an additional theater performance visit that will take place outside of the regular course time will be scheduled and announced in class.

Week 1: Jan 29th

- Introduction to concepts of immersion in Theater, Performance Art and Spatial Design.
- Introduction to the works of Gregor Schneider, Anna Viebrock and Vegard Vinge/Ida Müller.

Week 2: Feb 7th WEDNESDAY: 2:00-5:15pm

[Pappelallee 15, 10437 Berlin](#), Probenraum, 4th floor

(Please note: This is not the regularly scheduled course times and location!)

- Theatre lighting workshop with Fabian Eichner at Ballhaus Ost with set-design students from UdK and BCB course „Making Theater in Berlin“.

Week 3: Feb 12th

- Guest speaker: scenographer Barbara Lenartz will give a presentation of their work on Narrative Spaces.
- AV introduction
- Factory introduction

Week 4: Feb 19th

- Homework due: create a mood board with pictures of spaces and settings or experiences that catch ones attention.
- In class: Presentation of mood boards and discussion
- Introduction to sketching and basics of model building (taking measurements, scaling, materials and more...).

Week 5: Feb 26th

- Homework due: prepare presentation on a topic of your choice (10 min).
- In class: individual presentations (10 min each) and Q&A (10 min each).

Week 6: Mar 6th WEDNESDAY: 2:00-5:15pm

(Please note: This is not the regularly scheduled course times and location!)

- Excursion to Hamburger Bahnhof - Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart to see the works of Gregor Schneider and other spatial installation art.
- Discussion of impressions (on site).

Week 7: Mar 11th

- Homework due: prepare presentation of your course project: sketches and tryouts.
- In class: Introduction to DAS Feedback method.
- 4 Students present their course project (max. 20 minutes each) and Q&A (max. 20 minutes).

Week 8: Mar 18th

- Homework due: prepare presentation of your course project: sketches and tryouts.
- 4 Students present their course project (max. 20 minutes each) and Q&A (max. 20 minutes).

Spring Break

Week 9: Apr 1st —> federal holiday (Ostermontag)

Week 10: Apr 8th

- Homework due: model of course project in scale 1:25 or 1:50.
- students will set up a photo studio with lighting equipment and take pictures of models in various lighting situations.

Week 11: Apr 15th (class will take place remotely)

- Individual Consultation

Week 12: Apr 22nd

- In-class presentation and discussion of 4 projects.

Week 13: Apr 29th

- In-class presentation and discussion of 4 projects.

Week 14: May 6th

- Reflection on artistic process and feedback.
- Preparations for Open Studios presentation.
- Wrap up.

Open Studios presentation on May 7th (tbc).

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.