

FA156 Dance Lab: Body Space Image. Dance and Visual Arts

Seminar Leader: Eva Burghardt
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This is a practice based course, exploring the crossover of dance and visual arts.

Through an ongoing movement training, based on improvisation and somatic practices, students will train their body as an “instrument,” deepening its awareness, sense of presence and musicality, practicing listening to oneself as well as others. Starting from this inner awareness, we bring attention to our surroundings, making connections to other bodies, objects, space and architecture. We will be looking at dance and choreography outside of its usual context, the theatre space. These following aspects will be explored in practice and theory:

Transforming the Body
Sculpting Dances
Site Specific Dances
Choreographing Things
Tracing Movement

Towards the end of the course students may choose one of these aspects to deepen and develop for their final presentation, including sketches, experiments and scores. The final presentation can be developed individually and/or with the group.

Throughout the course, we will look at- and discuss works from artists who have had a big impact in widening the understanding of dance and choreography, crossing the borders between dance and visual arts. From postmodern artists Trisha Brown, Simone Forti and Anna Halprin to contemporary artists, such as Tino Sehgal, William Forsythe, Willi Dorner and Anne Imhoff.

Two off-site excursions to performances in Berlin, including discussions and a written reflection afterwards, will be an integral part of the course.

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.
- 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. Absences can only be excused if a medical note is submitted to the registrars office. 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

Students will be evaluated based on class participation, including showings, discussions, one mid-term project and a final presentation.

Please note: While the mid- term essay will be written individually, the final presentation will partly be done collaboratively.

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. 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+). 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

Students will be evaluated based on class participation, discussions and showings, one midterm reflection/essay (ca. 1000 words) and a final project presentation.

Please note: While the mid-term essay will be written individually, the final project can be done collaboratively.

- Class participation (includes attendance, active participation in praxis and theory, communication habits with Professor and among other students as well as maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production/rehearsal): 50%
- Homework and in-class work, including Mid-term essay: 25%
- Project presentations for critiques (includes mid term/end of semester presentations/performances): 25%

NOTE:

there will be two EXTRA off-site visits á 2 hours (dates to be announced)

there will be 2-3 EXTRA rehearsals before the final presentation (dates to be announced)

Schedule

Week 1: [Sep 2 – Sep 6]

Friday: 9:30-12:45

MOVEMENT IMPROVISATION_Listening

Introduction: Dance and Visual Arts. Part I

Week 2: [Sep 9 – Sep 13]

Friday: 9:30-12:45

TOOLS FOR IMPROVISATION_Time-Space-Effort

Mandatory factory orientation, please bring laptops

Week 3: [Sep 23 – Sep 27]

Friday: 9:30-12:45

TRANSFORMING THE BODY_Body as a container. Working with (inner) images

Theory: Dance and Visual Arts. Part II

Week 4: [Sep 30 – Oct 4]

Friday: 9:30-12:45

SCULPTING DANCES_Body as sculpture

Dance and Visual Arts. Part III

Week 5: [Oct 7 – Oct 11]

Friday: 9:30-12:45

SITE SPECIFIC DANCES

Week 6: [Oct 14 – Oct 18]

Friday: 9:30-12:45

CHOREOGRAPHING THINGS_Body-Space-Image

Deadline for Mid-term Essay

Week 7 Fall break: Fall break: [Oct 21 – Oct 27]

Week 8: [Oct 28 – Nov 1]
NO CLASS, off-site visit instead (date to be announced)

Week 9: [Nov 4 – Nov 8]
Friday: 9:30-12:45
TRACING MOVEMENT_Dancing and drawing

Week 10: [Nov 11 – Nov 15]
Friday: 9:30-12:45
Movement Improvisation Training
Solo and/or group development of final presentation

Week 11: [Nov 18 – Nov 22]
Friday: 9:30-12:45
Movement Improvisation Training
Solo and/or group development of final presentation

Week 12: [Nov 25 – Nov 29]
Friday: 9:30-12:45
Movement Improvisation Training
Solo and/or group development of final presentation

Week 13: [Dec 2 – Dec 6]
Friday: 9:30-12:45
Movement Improvisation Training
Final presentation

Week 14: [Dec 9 – Dec 13]
Friday: 9:30-12:45
Cool-down, Bodywork
Evaluation and Critique

Week 15: Completion week / Inspection [Dec 16 – Dec 20]

Scheduled class times will be available online under the relevant course heading:
<https://berlin.bard.edu/academics/courses/search/>

Grades Submission

All grades are submitted digitally to the Registrar's Office in a template provided in advance. Please note the following submission deadlines when setting final project deadlines:

- Midterm grades are due end of week 8, i.e. 1 November 2024
- Final grades for graduating students are due 16 December 2024 by noon. ***NB please set your submission dates accordingly so as to meet this deadline***
- Final grades for all students are due on 3 January 2025

Reminders about the above deadlines will be communicated by registrar@berlin.bard.edu

Policy on the use of facilities:

1. The Factory (Eichenstrasse 43) and Monopol (Provinzstr 40-44) at BCB offer space and facilities to BCB art students. Chip access is from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, including the weekends during the semester. The buildings cannot be used outside these hours.
2. Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
3. Students agree only to use the designated class spaces or communal workshops. Respecting the building and its facilities is crucial, as they are shared resources that need to be preserved for the benefit of all.
4. For your safety and the safety of others, smoking and drinking alcohol are strictly prohibited anywhere inside the building.
5. Unauthorized events and/or parties are not permitted. Projects using open flames (such as candles, torches, lanterns, fireworks, etc.) are not permitted inside the building.
6. Spray painting and handling any hazardous (chemical or combustible) material is not permitted inside the building.
7. All work surfaces (indoor and outdoor) must be adequately protected with the workshop's drop cloth before spray painting or working with plaster.
8. During completion week, any space used by a student must be emptied, with clean walls and floors. All garbage must be adequately disposed of. Final grades may be affected or withheld if any item remains by the inspection deadline.
9. When leaving the building, students must ensure all lights are turned off, all electrical items must be unplugged, and doors must be closed.
10. Contact the Studio art manager directly with any questions: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

Emergency phone numbers:

Police (calling from a German landline or cellphone): 110

Fire (calling from a German landline or cellphone): 112

Ambulance and Paramedics (calling from a German landline or cellphone): 112

Out-of-Hours Medical Care (calling from a German landline or cellphone) : 116 117