

FA230 Archives of Sound

Seminar Leader: Noam Brusilovsky
Email: n.brusilovsky@berlin.bard.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

In this practicing arts course students will be introduced to artistic practices of archival sonic research. From the 19th century onward, technological strides have made the recording (and archiving) of sounds possible – music, human voice, and natural phenomena can be recorded and played back. Sounds have since then been collected and stored, preserved and archived (both by individuals and by institutions). Archival sound recordings have been studied not only by anthropologists, historians and scholars, but also by artists from different fields who have made use of them in their artistic work. During the course, the participants will gain access to the radio archives of Germany's international public broadcaster Deutsche Welle. DW's television, radio and digital content is available across the world in more than 30 different languages. Following an introduction to the history of DW and its archives the participants will be able to conduct their own research at the historic archives, and collect material that will be examined and discussed in class. Later on, these materials will be incorporated into the participants' own artistic projects, presented by the end of the course. Students will have the opportunity to meet artists who use archival sonic material in different ways in their own practice and work on an artistic project in a medium of their choice.

This course is a cooperation between Bard College Berlin and Deutsche Welle. Some of the classes will be held at the DW studios in Wedding.

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.
- Make sure to borrow A/V equipment on time in order to be able to perform the required tasks on time.
- Work on the final project during the whole semester in their free time. During class the progress of the work on the projects will be shared with the other participants.
- Participate in discussions, discuss their projects, give and receive feedback.
- Organize the presentation of the projects at the end of the semester.
- Acquire the technical skills for the realization of their work in the chosen artistic medium and take care individually.
- 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.

Accessibility

Bard College Berlin is committed to inclusion and providing equal access to all students; we uphold and maintain all aspects of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 3 of the German Disability Equality Act of April 27, 2002 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1468). If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, Atticus Kleen, (accommodations@berlin.bard.edu) to request an official accommodation.

Requests for longer-term accommodations should be made as early as possible to ensure adequate time for coordination and planning. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and may require advance notice to implement.

If you have already been approved for accommodations with the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, please arrange to meet with me outside of class so that we can develop an implementation plan.

Students may face extenuating circumstances related to various personal or external factors, which impact their academic performance. While these circumstances often do not fall within the legal framework of Disability Accommodations, Bard College Berlin is committed to supporting students experiencing such circumstances. A student needing a short extension or a replacement assignment because of an extenuating circumstance is encouraged to make arrangements directly with instructors if possible. If further support is needed, please visit the [Bard College Berlin Accessibility page](#). Questions about this process can be directed to James Harker (j.harker@berlin.bard.edu) or Maria Anderson-Long (m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu).

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.

Access to the DW archives is guaranteed for the specified appointments in the syllabus only. In case of an absence from the visits at the archives of DW students will not gain any further access to the DW archive and this might affect the work on the final project.

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

During the course the students will create an artistic project (no medium restriction) based on sound items from the archives of the Deutsche Welle. Students are allowed to keep investigating for further material in other archives in their free time as well. Students should take into consideration while realizing their final projects that expenses associated with their projects cannot be refunded.

Students will be required to read articles, travel to the DW archives and RBB-Studios, present and discuss their work in class.

Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with the 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.

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 may 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): 20 %

Homework and in-class work (includes presentations): 40%

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 40 %

Schedule

The fall semester runs from Monday, September 2 and runs until Friday, December 20, with the fall break planned from Monday, October 21, - Sunday, October 27, 2024.

- Regular course sessions end on Friday, December 13.
- Completion week is from Monday, December 16 through Friday, December 20.
 - Make-up classes and final exams can take place in completion week.
 - Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Week 1: Sep. 6th

- Introduction to the course and the required tasks.
- Watching the movie “The Farthest: Voyager in Space” and listening to the “Golden Records”

Week 2: Sep. 13th

- Visit at Haus des Rundfunks (House of Radio), Masurenallee 8-14 14057 Berlin.
- Guided tour through the archives, auditoriums, studios.
- A lecture by a sound engineer on the history of sound recording.

Week 3: Sep. 20th

- Visit at the archives of Deutsche Welle, Voltastrasse 6, 13355 Berlin.
- Introduction to the history of DW.
- Introduction to the archives of DW.
- Archival research.

Week 4: Sep. 27th

- **To prepare:** Students will present in class the materials they found in the archives of DW (10 minutes presentations).
- Watching a documentary about Milo Rau’s theater play “Hate Radio”.

Week 5: October 4th

- Introduction to the A/V department.
- Dramaturge Lotta Beckers (guest lecturer) will discuss with the students theoretical concepts of archives.
- **To prepare:** Student will be required to read:
 - Michel Foucault: *Lives of Infamous Men* (1977). In: Faubien, James D. (ed.), *Power. Essential Works of Foucault 1954-1984 Volume 3*, New York, The New Press (2000), p.157-175.
 - Jacques Derrida: *Archive Fever*. In: *Diacritics*, Vol. 25, Nr. 2, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore (Summer 1995), p. 9-11.

Week 6: October 11th (The class will take place remotely, Zoom link will be sent)

- **To prepare:**
 - Presentations about the historical-political context and background of the sound items found at the archives of Deutsche Welle.
 - Listening to Noam Brusilovsky and Ofer Waldman’s audio play “Adolf Eichmann: A Trial on the Radio” (RBB 20211).

Week 7: October 18th

- Visit at the archives of Deutsche Welle, Voltastrasse 6, 13355 Berlin.
- Students will proceed with their archival research.

Fall break: [Oct 21 – Oct 27]

Week 8: November 1st

- The Berlin based American artist Arnold Dreyblatt will present his artistic work on archives in class.
- **To prepare:** A part of the group will present concepts for the final projects.

Week 9: November 8th

- **To prepare:** The remaining part of the class will present concepts for their final projects

Week 10: November 15h

- Final visit at the archives of Deutsche Welle, Voltastrasse 6, 13355 Berlin.
- Last archival research appointment for the final project.

Week 11: November 22nd

- **To prepare:** A part of the group will present a draft of the final project
- Feedback

Week 12: November 29t

- **To prepare:** The remaining part of the group will present a draft of the final project
- Feedback

Week 13 December 6th:

- **To prepare:** A part of the group will present their final projects
- Feedback will be given by the participants
- Preparation for the open studios

Additional class on Saturday, December 7th from 1-4 pm:

- **To prepare:** The remaining part of the group will present their final projects
- Feedback will be given by the participants
- Preparation for the open studios

Week 14: Open Studios, NO class on December 13th

- **To prepare:** students will set up their works for the presentation at the open studios

Week 15:

December Completion week / Inspection (No class)

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