

FA270 The Political Image

Seminar Leader: Hannah Goldstein

Email: (email address of faculty member)

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

In this practicing arts photography course, students will – both in theory and in practice – engage with the political meaning of photography. How can photography be used as a vehicle to discuss political issues? As the power of images can be very strong, how can we ensure that the messages conveyed are successful?

We will look at artists who have worked with political themes and images in different ways and learn from them and their tactics how to proceed. We will look at the history of photography and discuss the origins of the political image, from Lewis Hein to the futurists in Russia. The course will look at feminist movements and their tools, from the Gorilla Girls to Zanele Moholy. The course will explore how to photograph today's protest movements using an approach other than documentary. Further topics that the course will look in to are gender, race and the environmental image.

This course has an artistic approach to the theme of the political image, we will discuss staged photography, photo reportage, the use of collage, and printed matter. Students will be asked to choose a theme to work on during the course and make a project on that theme. Together we will develop photographic goals for each subsequent meeting. Each class will be divided into two sections. In the first section, we will look at various artists that can inspire and aid us in our projects. The second half will be dedicated to feedback of the students images. We will be using digital photography for this course, and the course will end with an outdoor exhibition with the students work.

Requirements

Turn off phones during the entire class time. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks.

Presenting pictures, assignments and presentations without reminder.

Engage in critiques and discussions.

Participation in the final exhibition, including installing and taking down the exhibition.

Please have an initial idea or theme for the project that you will work on during the semester.

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.

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.

Arriving late will be noted and after two late arrivals, the grade will be significantly affected.

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

Assigned artist presentations will take place on October 22nd and 29th.

Final projects and artist statements are due on December 10th in class, and they will also be presented in the outdoor exhibition during the Open Studios.

Assignments

Each student will be expected to bring 8 -12 printed images each week, at least 13 x 18 cm in size. Printing costs vary however costs usually lay around 50 cents per print. The images can be printed at DM or Rossmann.

Each student will be given an artist to research and present in a ten minute presentation during class.

For the final project the students are required to have a finished project of ca 12 images, and a written project statement about the work.

If students have and can bring their own digital cameras that would be great.

Grade Breakdown

50% of the grade will be based on the weekly presented images and how the students ideas are developing.

30% on class participation and presentations.

20% on the final project.

Schedule

September 3rd

Introductions

Course overview

Lecture: History of the political image.

Homework: making a photograph without an image

September 10th

Lecture: The Feminist Image

Group critique

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

September 17th

Lecture: Identity in images

Group critique

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

September 24th

Artist talk by Piotr Pietrus – how to make protest images in a poetic manner.

www.piotrpietrus.com

Group critique

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

October 1st

Lecture: Race in images

Group critique

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

October 8th

Lecture: The environmental image

Group critique

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

Students will be assigned artist to research and present in 10 minute presentations.

October 15th

Student presentations of assigned artists.

Group critique

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

FALL BREAK

October 29th

Student presentations of assigned artists.

Group critique

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

November 5th

Visit to C/O Berlin. We will meet there at 11.00 when they open. Please be on time.
Hardenbergstraße 22-24
10623 Berlin

November 12th

Discussion and information about the outdoor exhibition. The exhibition project KLEISTER will be presented.

Group critique

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

November 19th

Group critique with guest critic Marc Volk

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

November 26th

Thinking about printing. Getting ready for the show.

Group critique

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

December 3rd

Final critique before projects are due.

Homework: 8 -12 images that relate to your project, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

December 10th

Presentations of final projects and artist statements.