

## FA302 Advanced Painting: Oil Paint & After

Seminar Leader: **John Kleckner**

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Course Time: **Tuesday 9:30-12:45**

Location: **Direktorenhaus at Monopol, Provinzstr. 40-44**

Office Hours: **Mon, Tue, Thu 13:00-14:00 or by appointment**

### Course Description

This advanced studio course is designed to connect the gamut of materials and techniques in contemporary painting with the development of an individual aesthetic style. Weekly sessions will expose students to a range of traditional and experimental painting techniques with the aim of synchronizing materials and methods with style and content. From classic linseed oil through iridescent interference pigments and more, students will learn to mix and use paint more effectively, making the medium integral to the subject and content of their art. Past topics of exploration include: making paint with pigments, customizing paint consistency, airbrushing, transparent glazing, paint marbling, masking, frottage, mixed-media collage, drying oils, mineral spirits, iridescent pigments, preparing grounds, varnishing, encaustic wax, modeling pastes, alkyd resins, vinyl Flashé, gouache, and inkjet printing on canvas. Material demonstrations will be augmented by readings, slideshows, and contemporary art gallery tours. The syllabus begins with directed projects that become increasingly independent as the semester proceeds. Students are expected to have prior painting experience, a willingness to experiment, and be highly motivated to make and discuss art. Class size is limited to ensure each student has adequate studio space and time with the professor for individual feedback and support. Evaluations and critiques occur at midterm and at the end of the term. The semester culminates in the "Open Studios" exhibition at Monopol Berlin and the "ArtSeen" printed publication of student artworks. This course requires a significant investment of time outside of class sessions.

### Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.
- Attend ALL class sessions, especially the group critiques.
- Students are expected to finish work for all assignments and projects on time.
- Allocate extra time for preparation and clean-up.
- Practice good studio etiquette, respectfully use shared work spaces and return shared materials to the proper shelves.
- Initiate appointments with the Professor or arts staff outside of class time.
- Respond to emails from the professor 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:j.harker@berlin.bard.edu)) or Maria Anderson-Long ([m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu](mailto:m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu)).

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend ALL class sessions on time.

Attendance is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, ONE absence from a once-per-week course should not affect the grade or require documentation. More than one unexcused absence will significantly lower the final grade.

Tardiness more than 10 minutes will be considered an absence.

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 & Grade Breakdown

Students will receive midterm and final grades for their work.

Students are assessed on their willingness to experiment, their contributions exchanging feedback during critiques, and on their ability to work effectively both together in collaborative groups and independently throughout the semester. Grading will reflect the creative ambition, time invested, strength of concept, technical execution, and overall quality of the finished artworks. This assessment will also include the student's ability to adequately budget their time for working and clean-up of the materials and spaces used at BCB.

70% Work (meaning all artworks made for class, presented for critiques, and assignments.)  
30% Attendance, participation in critiques / discussions, and professionalism (being serious, efficient, respectful.)

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class session. Detailed information about assignments and projects will be explained in class. Assignments and the dates described in this syllabus are subject to change by the instructor. Students will be notified of any changes to the syllabus in class and via email. Students must regularly check their BCB email accounts.

Students are encouraged to make appointments with the instructor during office hours to discuss assignments and participation, or they may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

*IMPORTANT- Please be aware that basic art materials will be provided, though some materials may need to be purchased directly by each student at their own expense depending on individual project goals.*

### 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.

## Schedule

Week 1: Sept 3 Introduction to course, expectations, and materials. Set-up studio workspaces. Overview of responsible studio etiquette, safe handling & disposal of materials.  
Assignment: Research (living) painters. Read Amy Sillman's "On Color" essay.

Wk 2: Sept 10 Discussion of the properties of various paints (acrylic, oil, gouache, enamel, etc.) Surface preparations. Gesso, sizing, imprägnierung, (non-)absorbent grounds. Stretch and prepare an unusual material (t-shirt, burlap, plastic, etc) to use as a painting surface. Building stretchers and stretching canvas demonstration. Share (living) painter research and students' prior artwork. Discuss assigned essay.  
Assignment: Begin Painting Project #1

*Berlin Art Week – Wednesday, Sept 11 - Sunday, Sept 15*

Wk 3: Sept 17 Mixing precise colors. Overview of color theory & terminology (color wheels, hue, value, chroma, crispening (color relativity), local color, color constancy. Slide presentation, discussion, and paint mixing exercises. Contemporary painters slide presentation & discussion.  
Assignment: Finish Project #1 (due next session) and Begin Project #2. Mix 5 precise colors from found samples.

Wk 4: Sept 24 Paint handling, gesture, surface texture, quality of brushstrokes (heavy handed, lightly touched, etc.) Painting mediums and additives, impasto pastes, Malbutter, Maroger, Neo Megilp, alkyd gels, etc. Slide presentation & discussion.  
Assignment: Finish Project #2, due next session.

Wk 5: Oct 1 Making paint from pigments. Enhancing surface texture. Further paint additives, iridescent & interference pigments, glass beads, and modeling (molding) paste.  
Assignment: Begin Project #3 (Midterm)

Wk 6: Oct 8 Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Midterm Projects.  
Assignment: Finish Project #3 (Midterm)

Wk 7: Oct 15 Project #3 (Midterm) due today. Midterm presentations & group critiques. (*Attendance and participation is especially important.*)

*Fall Break week ~~~ Fall Break week ~~~ Fall Break week ~~~ (October 21-25)*

Wk 8: Oct 29 Edges, masking with tape, frisket, masking fluid, and stencils. Exploring spatial depth compared with materiality and flatness. How to better use highlights, shadows, and atmospheric space.  
Assignment: Begin Painting Project #4

- Wk 9: Nov 5      Understanding and discussing the subject, content, and context of a painting.  
Close readings of selected paintings. Slide presentation & discussion.  
Assignment:      Finish Painting Project #4
- Wk 10: Nov 12    Material and metaphor. Further discussions of subject, content, and context.  
More close readings of paintings. Slide presentation & discussion.  
Accompanying their final project students will write a brief statement outlining the  
concept of their project or specific works. This text should address *what, how, and*  
*why* questions around their work.  
Assignment:      Begin Painting Project #5 (Final Project) and write an Artist Statement ( 1st draft.)
- Wk 11: Nov 19    Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss statements and Final Projects.  
Assignment:      Continue Project #5 (Final Project) and continue editing Artist Statement.
- Wk 12: Nov 26    Studio work session, individual meetings to discuss Final Projects.  
Assignment:      Finish Project #5 (Final Project) and finish Artist Statement.
- Wk 13: Dec 3      Installation of artworks. Presentation & critique of Final Projects.  
*(Attendance and participation is especially important.)*
- Wk 14: Dec 10    Presentation & critique of Final Projects, continued.  
*(Attendance and participation is especially important.)*
- Friday, Dec 13    “Open Studios” exhibition from 4-8pm. (date / time may change.)
- Dec 16 - 20      Completion Week. Studios must be clean, artworks & personal materials removed.

Policy on the use of BCB 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](mailto: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