

FA 235 Chronicle of a Season

Seminar Leader: Janina Schabig
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Course Times: Wednesdays, 2 pm - 5.15 pm
Classroom: P98, Seminar Room 2

Seminar Leaders from partner campuses:
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Course Description

This is an [OSUN](#) Network Collaborative Course ([NCC](#))
Adapted from the title of Edgar Morin and Jean Rouch's famous 1960 Paris documentary "Chronicle of a Summer", this is a joint film production course taught simultaneously on six different campuses (Bard Annandale, Bard Berlin, Al Quds, AUCA, BRAC, EHU). The goal of the course is to create a cinematic chronicle of each locality. The theme of these synchronized chronicles is also derived from Morin and Rouch's film; each chronicle takes as its prompt the deceptively simple question, "Are you happy?". By using this device, Chronicle of a Summer reveals a city filled with inhabitants considering ways in which colonialism, war, capital, race, and gender shape their personal and social experiences. In our course, we aim to capture the complexities of contemporary life in specific locations within a limited time frame, guided by the similarly evocative question: "What is your dream?"

Requirements

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 of ALL classes is expected.
- More than one unexcused absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session) will significantly affect the participation grade for the course.
- Arriving late will be noted and after two late arrivals, the participation grade will be affected.

Please note that Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences, whether excused or unexcused. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). The instructor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where the instructor 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. Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are also entitled and encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor to receive individual feedback on seminar participation and work, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

Assessment

Attendance & Participation

Your participation in the course will be evaluated based on your attendance, the depth and quality of your engagement with course materials (including listening, readings, and viewings), your active involvement in group work, your participation in both in-person and online discussions (on our shared Padlet), and your positive and respectful interactions with classmates. A key component of your participation grade will be your constructive contributions during screenings, network zooms and assignment feedback sessions.

Ice Breaker - due February 14th

Each student records a 60 - 90 seconds tour of their respective space/place (could be “their daily commute to campus”, a tour of their room/home, their campus, their neighborhood, etc.). The videos will be posted to padlet and shared in small break out rooms during our first network session. Videos should be uploaded to padlet by February 14th.

1. Assignment: Character/Place Study - due March 18th

Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

2. Assignment: Dreamscape - narrations due March 12th and videos due April 1st

Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

3. Assignment: Final Videos for Chronicle of a Season - due April 08, 22nd, 29th and May 6th

Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

Grade Breakdown

30%	Attendance & Participation
05%	Ice Breaker
20%	1. Assignment: Character or Place Study
15%	2. Assignment: Dreamscape
30%	3. Assignment: Final Videos for Chronicle of a Season

Grading Scale

A	Exceptional work, participation in class and display of critical thinking and risk taking.
A-	Excellent work, participation in class and display of critical thinking and risk taking.
B+	Above average work, participation in class and good critical discussions.
B	Above average work, participation in class and attempts to contribute to critical discussion.
B-	Good work. Participation in class. Completion of all class requirements.
C+	Average work with promise. Participation in class. Completion of all assignments.
C	Average work. Limited participation in class.
C-	Less than average work. Some participation in class.
D	Below average work. Incomplete work. Little class participation.
F	Excessive absences, not enough work completed.

Schedule

Date	Class Agenda	Important
week 01 <i>Jan. 29</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Intro to Class and Cinéma Vérité ❖ Viewing in class Chronicle of a Summer (90 min) <i>Jean Rouch & Edgar Morin, France 1961</i> 	
week 02 <i>Feb. 05</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ AV Room (Equipment Loan Procedure) ❖ Assignments Overview & Logistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ icebreaker ➢ character/place study ➢ dreamscapes ➢ final videos ❖ Viewing in class Ben Geldim Gidiyorum (15 min) <i>Metin Akdemir, Turkey 2011</i> The Last Rites (17 min) <i>Yasmin Kabir, Bangladesh 2008</i> 	
week 03 <i>Feb. 12</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Deep Observation Excursion Part 1 Class meets at the Factory (Eichenstr. 43) 	
week 04 <i>Feb. 19</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Network Zoom with all campuses: Introductory Session with Icebreaker Videos 	<p>Ice Breaker Videos Upload by 2 pm Feb. 14</p>
week 05 <i>Feb. 26</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Camera & Sound Refresher ❖ Editing Resources with Abdullah Naseer ❖ Viewing in class The Hottest August (95 min) <i>Brett Story, USA 2019</i> 	
week 06 <i>Mar. 05</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Deep Observation Excursion Part 2 Class meets at (location tbd) 	

<p>week 07 <i>Mar. 12</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dream Narrations ❖ Network Zoom with all campuses: Guest Filmmaker Session: Elizabeth D. Costa & Brett Story 	<p>Dream Narrations Be ready to share one dream suggestion per student in class Send chosen dreams as text and sound files to partner campus by tomorrow, Mar. 13</p>
<p>week 08 <i>Mar. 19</i> <i>midterm</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Feedback Session on Character/Place Study 	<p>Character/Place Study Videos Upload by 2 pm Mar. 18</p>
<p>week 09 <i>Mar. 26</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Preparations for Final Videos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Padlet/ Google Drive Logistics ➢ Language & Subtitles ➢ Informed Consent Forms ➢ Interview Techniques with Mahmoud Kaabour ➢ Unified interview question ideas ❖ Viewing in class tbd 	
<p>week 10 <i>Apr. 02</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Network Zoom with New York: Feedback Session on Dream Videos & Vox Populi Interview Questions 	<p>Dream Videos Upload by 2 pm Apr. 01</p> <p>Vox Populi Interview Questions Be ready to share a few unified interview question ideas with partner campus</p>
<p>week 11 <i>Apr. 09</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Viewing in class Fifty People One Question Virat Nagar, India (5 min) Fifty People One Question New Orleans, USA (8 min) <i>Benjamin Reece</i> VTR St-Jacques (26 min) <i>Bonnie Sherr Klein, Canada 1969</i> Reassemblage (39 min) <i>Trinh T. Minh-ha, Senegal 1982</i> The Memory Project <i>Wu Wenguang, China 2010</i> ❖ Reading in class Doing Oral History 	<p>Final Videos, Step 1: Visuals from our city Upload by 2 pm Apr. 08</p>

week 12 <i>Apr. 16</i>	Spring Break	
week 13 <i>Apr. 23</i>	Network Zoom with Bangladesh: Feedback Session on Final Videos: Vox Populi Interviews	Final Videos, Step 2: Vox Populi interviews Upload by 2 pm Apr. 22
week 14 <i>Apr. 30</i>	❖ Feedback Session on Final Videos ❖ Preparations for last network zoom	Final Videos, Step 3: Character Deep Dive Upload by 2 pm Apr. 29
week 15 <i>May 07</i>	❖ Course Evaluations & Feedback ❖ Network Zoom with all campuses: Final Screening	Final Videos, collective 10 minute segment Uploaded by 2 pm May 6th
week 16 <i>May 14</i>	❖ Completion Week	

* The syllabus is subject to change. The most recent syllabus and assignments are available in our Google Classroom.

AV Room – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

AV Room Policy Agreement

- 1) BCB's AV (Audio-Visual) Room provides a limited quantity of AV equipment to support those students enrolled in arts classes that require specific items.
- 2) Opening times may change every semester to adapt to specific course times and needs. Access is granted only with booked appointment: <https://avroom.youcanbook.me>
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) AV equipment will be given out only to those students responsible in organizing, picking up as well as returning their items IN PERSON and ON TIME. No exceptions.
- 6) 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
- 7) All items returned late will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per av day.
- 8) Any items returned without accessories (such as cables, SD card, batteries, tripod head, lens cap, etc) will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per av day (the same as late returns).
- 9) Any items damaged or lost will be subject to patron reimbursement for its value up to a maximum of 250 EURO per item (or under special circumstances, replacement, at the discretion of AV Staff). Damaged or malfunctioning items are expected to be reported to Staff upon check-in.
- 10) AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
- 11) Contact AV Staff directly with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu