

# FA110 Beginning Sculpture

Seminar Leader: Eddy Steinhauer  
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Office Hours: by appointment

## Course Description

This foundational course introduces students to the dynamic world of sculpture through a hands-on studio experience emphasizing materials, methods, and conceptual development. Students will explore three-dimensional artistic practices shaped by formal, material, and contextual concerns while drawing inspiration from natural history, contemporary critical theories, and art-making processes.

Participants will engage with a diverse range of media, including clay, plaster, and wood, as they experiment with various fabrication techniques. The course emphasizes key principles of sculpture such as addition, subtraction, substitution, and multiplicity, providing students with the foundational skills to create compelling works. Additionally, students will develop proficiency in using basic hand and power tools safely and effectively, ensuring they can translate their artistic visions into tangible forms.

Throughout the course, we will investigate topics and concerns driving contemporary art and culture, using these as inspiration to craft objects and installations that address critical issues facing society today. Class presentations, discussions, and critiques will provide a platform for analyzing significant developments in the medium of sculpture, while selected readings will deepen students' understanding of historical and current practices.

The course emphasizes inclusivity by introducing diverse artistic traditions and perspectives, fostering a learning environment that values cultural, social, and artistic diversity. Students will be encouraged to explore their personal narratives and identities within the broader context of global art and culture. The course aims to guide students in developing a cohesive body of work that showcases their understanding of sculptural principles and techniques, while also enhancing their ability to articulate their artistic intentions and present their creations professionally.

## Requirements

- Students are expected to attend on class meetings and come prepared to work in class.
- Students are expected to complete all assignments on time and participate in all class activities including class discussions and field trips. Students are also expected to:
- Initiate appointments with the Professor or arts staff outside of class time if required.
- Respond to emails from their professors in a timely manner.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production outside of class meeting time.
- 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 by 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 the inspection deadline.

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](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.

### **Accommodations**

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 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.

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**

Beginning Sculpture is a course allowing students to use sculpture as their main medium of production. Most art materials will be provided, though some materials may need to be purchased / acquired directly by each student at their own expense depending on individual project goals. Students must produce and present artworks for this class that are (or relate to) three-dimensional sculptural works. While students are encouraged to explore any creative medium during their time at Bard College Berlin, they will be graded on their sculpture production for this class.

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 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**

1st Assignment 15%  
2nd Assignment 20%  
Final Project 30%

### **Schedule**

\*Please note that both scheduling and content are subject to change.

**Week 1:**

Tue, Jan 28, 2025

- Class introduction, overview, and process.
- Slide presentation on understand the goals and gather inspiration
- Create sketches or mockups to refine the concept.

Thu, Jan 30, 2025

- Armature Construction
- Build a strong internal support structure.
- Applying proportions and scale.
- Workshop beginning wood working and construction.

**Week 2:**

Tue, Feb 4, 2025

- Working with clay establishing the overall form and proportions.
- Focusing on accuracy, proportions, and overall symmetry.

Thu, Feb 6, 2025

- Working with clay defining key anatomical landmarks and blocking out basic shapes.
- defining bone structure and muscle forms.

**Week 3:**

Tue, Feb. 11, 2025

- Artist Studio visit class field trip, we will meet at designated location off campus.

Thu, Feb 13, 2025

Working with clay adding detail.

- Class workshop on making specialized tools for precision work, wood working design and fabrication.
- Applying texture and defining features.

**Week 4:**

Tue, Feb 18, 2025

- Slide presentation on three-dimensional design principles: Balance, Contrast, Movement, Negative and Positive Space.
- Developing the narrative
- Clay Modeling

Thu, Feb 20, 2025

- Clay Modeling

**Week 5:**

Tue, Feb 25, 2025

- Clay Modeling
- Stylistic expression exercise.

Thu, Feb 27, 2025

- Finishing work with clay.
- End of the First Assignment.

**Week 6:**

Tue, March 4, 2025

- Part 1. Preparing the waste mold.
- Determine where parts of the mold will separate.
- Building clay walls
- Class workshop on mixing and applying plaster.

Thu, March 6, 2025

- Part 2. Preparing the waste mold.
- Preparing plaster surface area.
- Class workshop on mixing and applying plaster.
- Individual progress report.

**Week 7:**

Tue, March 11, 2025

- Class workshop mixing and casting plaster

Thu, March 13, 2025

- Class workshop mixing and casting plaster

**Week 8:**

Tue, March 18, 2025

- Class workshop on mold separation.
- Working with plaster using specialized tools.
- Adding textures or patterns.
- End of the Second Assignment.

Thu, March 20, 2025

- Working with plaster using specialized tools.
- Adding textures or patterns.

**Week 9:**

Thu, March 25, 2025

- Plaster carving, detailing.

Thu, March 20, 2025

- Plaster carving, detailing and finishing.

**Week 10:**

Tue, Apr. 1, 2025

- Plaster finishing and Sealing.

Thu, Apr. 3, 2025

- Class slide presentation on portraiture.
- Methods in treating the surface and disguising the material.

**Week 11:**

Tue, Apr. 8, 2025

- Personalizing your project.

-Preparing for your presentation.

Thu, Apr. 10, 2025

-Finishing

-Final Assignment Due.

-Class presentation Final critique.

**Policy on the use of facilities:**

1. 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.
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