

BARD COLLEGE BERLIN

FA220 Advanced Photography: Analog 4eva

FALL 2025 WEEKLY SCHEDULE*

Seminar Leader: April Gertler

Course Time: Tuesdays: 9 - 12.15

Email: a.gertler@berlin.bard.edu

Mobile: +49 177 617 1652 (iMessage / WhatsApp / Signal / Telegram)

Office Hours: by appointment - please contact me!

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Once you have the taste for analog photography - it's hard to stop. This upper division analog photography class, has been created to support the growing analog passion on the BCB campus. The class is designed for photography students who already have a fundamental understanding of analog darkroom photography and are interested in furthering their knowledge not only in the darkroom, with a manual camera and conceptually as well. Students will accelerate their knowledge in these multiple areas.

This class will be a balance between learning new technical skills in the darkroom in combination with experimenting and learning how to shoot in both low light and fixed lighting situations in addition to connecting with concepts and ideas around image making.

Intensified darkroom workshops will be offered in combination with in class shooting workshops. The work will be critiqued and evaluated in class based on technical, aesthetic and conceptual merit. Readings will be assigned in conjunction with course content. The course structure assumes that students understand this will be a (very) time intensive class experience. Prior experience with analog photography (shooting, processing and printing) is **an absolute prerequisite** for enrolment in this class. Please contact April Gertler if you would like to take this class but have not taken B/W analog photography at BCB as she will need to see actual physical print examples (no jpegs!) of your experience level for admittance into this class.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Use the designated printing times given to each student at the beginning of the semester.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with the Professor or arts staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails and/or text messages from the Professor in a timely manner.
- Inform Professor at beginning of semester if photos of student, artwork, works in progress are NOT to be taken and / or used for Bard College Berlin.
- Remove all artworks, art materials, and any personal belongings before the final inspection of the darkroom during completion week. Failure to remove works and / or clean spaces used will result in final grade penalization. Donating artworks or art materials (unrequested) at anytime is not permitted and will still be considered student's property that will be expected to be uninstalled and removed.

- Students are expected to purchase 36 exposure Black and White film and photographic paper as needed for class assignments.

ATTENDANCE AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2025:

All students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill.

- 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.
- Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling/travel conflict, the Professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence unless the Professor is contacted at least 1 hour before class.

POLICY ON LATE SUBMISSION OF ARTWORKS / PRESENTATIONS

Assignments (artworks, essays, oral presentations) that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where the Professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within two weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than a C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

GRADE BREAKDOWN & ASSESSMENT

As it is almost impossible to make an overall grading structure that would apply to each student, I feel it most important to make the grading scheme based on each student's individual ability. What plays a vital role in this is doing the best you can in class.

There are some standard points that will be checked off in creating your grade which Include: coming to class on time, handing your work in on time, participating in class and cleaning / maintaining the darkroom and finally, being prepared and ready when in class starts. During the semester, all assignments will be graded and commented on by way of an email. If you feel that you are unsure of your grade and want clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me, I am always happy to discuss.

Corita Kent, the artist and former nun wrote a very apt list titled:

10 RULES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.

I follow this list quite closely - (see the rest of the list at the end of the document)

Rule Number 7 says; The only rule is work. If you work it will lead to something. It is the people who do all the work all the time who eventually catch to things.

You can fool the fans — but not the players.

Keep this in mind during this class. Although you are needed to be in class to get grades and pass the course — much more importantly you are needed to help make the class what it is. The structure is there for you and you are also part of the structure; your contributions help shape the 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 as 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 P98 at Bard College Berlin.

Anticipated Costs for this Class

Each student will be expected to purchase their own film and paper for this class. It is suggested to buy materials with other students - it's cheaper! The total cost for this class can run between 100€ - 250€ - which completely depends on each student and how they use their materials.

Materials list

- + 6 (-/+) rolls of film > 400 ASA film : €6 - €11 per roll
- + depending on where film is purchased - buying film in bulk ('10 roll bricks') can be cheaper
- + Photographic paper - see below for suggestions & specifications
- + Negative sleeves
- + Binder to keep your negatives organized and clean!
- + Permanent marker to write on your negative sleeves

FILM (prices based on Fotoimpex prices as of Jan 2025)

FOMA Fomapan 400ASA 135/36 = €5.80 (*only at FOTOIMPEX)

> if you buy 10x of this film it's €5.62 per film

AGAFAPHOTO APX 400ASA = €6.39

ROLLEI RETRO 400 135-36 = €8.20

ILFORD Delta 400ASA 135/36 = €10.95

Not available at Fotoimpex:

KODAK TRI-X 400ASA 135/36

Price at Foto Kotti: AgfaPhoto APX 400ASA = €7.00

You can also buy film at:

<https://www.fotolabor-berlin.com/>

<https://www.jet-foto.de/>

PAPER*

The amount of paper you use in this class is dependent on you, but you can count on at least 150 sheets of paper.

Most important, the paper should be: **MULTIGRADE/Variable paper! RC** (resin coated!)

Paper surfaces: Hochglänzend (high gloss), Seidenmatt (silky matt), Pearl (pearl), Matt (matt)

> I highly suggest starting off with HIGH GLOSS paper - it's easier to use

Paper brands:

Cheaper: FOMA Fomaspeed, ADOX Easy Print RC 311

More expensive: Ilford

Paper size: 18 x 24cm (a little bit smaller) or 24 x 30cm (a little bit bigger = which is best for contact sheets)

*Another tip would be to buy paper on eBay - when doing so, PLEASE make sure the paper is **Resin Coated** or **RC paper** ONLY!!

You are not allowed to print with any other papers in the darkroom!

PHOTO STORES

Aperture Film Lab, www.apertureberlin.com

Schlüterstr. 68, 10625 Berlin-Charlottenburg

Opening times: Tues to Sat, 2 - 7 pm

Film.Speed.Lab, Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Str. 32, 10407 Berlin (5 min walk from U2 Eberswalder)

Opening times: Mon - Sat: 11 - 7pm

FOTOIMPEX, www.fotoimpex.de

Alte Schönhauser Str. 32b, 10119 Berlin-Mitte (U2 Weinmeister Str. - south exit)

Opening times: Mon - Sat: 11.00 – 7pm

Foto Kotti, www.fotokotti.de

Skalitzer Str. 134, 10999 Berlin-Kreuzberg (U8 Kottbusser Tor)

Opening times: Mon – Fri 10 - 7pm, Sat – 10 - 3pm

Safelight Berlin, www.safelightberlin.com

Schivelbeiner Str. 9, 10439 Berlin (U2 - Schönhauser Allee, 3 min walk)

Opening times: Tues- Sat: 10 - 5pm

PROCESSING / LABS

Processing film is very, very challenging. Everyone goes through the experience of damaging or losing a roll of film due to the way they have processed the film. I have made a series of videos of myself processing a roll of film which you can use to accompany you during your film processing experience. Please find them here:

Part 1: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X7rQo8YPOk0R42xjGVIDosB_GDRJPh_8/view

Part 2: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JWiJ1afm4Yu9dEdjevFDBSKDBX3eBrj4/view>

Part 3: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tu_p3YDLG5tvMnCQNb5zJwaFOqDyXKO_/view

If you don't want to process yourself - you can go to one of these labs BUT the turn around time can be up to 3 days when it only takes 30min to do it yourself! (All of these labs also sell black and white film, but mostly do not sell photo paper)

Viertel vor 8 (<https://vv8.de>), Pappelallee 7/8, 10437 Berlin (nr. M1 / U2 Eberswalderstr.) Opening times: Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm

Film.Speed.Lab, Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Str. 32, 10407 Berlin (5 min walk from U2 Eberswalder)

Opening times: Mon - Sat: 11 - 7pm

Jetfoto, Dircksenstraße 89, 10178 Berlin (nr. Alexanderplatz)

Opening times: Mon - Fri: 9 - 8pm, Sat 11 - 8pm

Pixel Grain, Rosenstraße 17, 10178 Berlin (nr. Alexanderplatz)

Opening times: Mon - Fri: 10 - 7pm, Sunday 2 - 7pm

Das Foto, Dietzgenstraße 39, 13156 Berlin (10 min walk from P98)

Opening times: Mon - Fri: 9.30 - 6.30pm, Sat: 9.30 - 12.30pm

Safelight Berlin, Schivelbeiner Str. 9, 10439 Berlin (3 min walk from U2 Schönhauser Allee)

Opening times: Tue - Sat: 10 - 5p

ONLINE

FOTOIMPEX, www.fotoimpex.de

CALUMET, <https://www.calumetphoto.de/category/schwarz-weiss-filme>

RECIPES

Please note : every film has it's own developing times!

Scan to check
for developing
times:



<https://www.digitaltruth.com/devchart.php>

Check this website when you are using your own film

We use Rodinal 1+25 as our developer

WHEN TO CHANGE THE CHEMISTRY IN THE DARKROOM

If the DEVELOPER looks like Coke or very dark brewed tea

> discard the developer in the wet room in the container marked "DEVELOPER"

Then change **BOTH** the Developer and the Stop

OR

After testing the FIX with the Hypocheck and you see a cloud form from the droplet you put into the FIX, discard the fix in the wet room in the container marked "FIX"

The general rule of thumb is; if you change one chemical bath it's best to change all of them!

OTHER ON-CAMPUS FACILITIES

+ 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.

+ Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.

+ 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.

+ For your safety and the safety of others, smoking and drinking alcohol are strictly prohibited anywhere inside the building.

+ 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.

+ Spray painting and handling any hazardous (chemical or combustible) material is not permitted inside the building.

+ All work surfaces (indoor and outdoor) must be adequately protected with the workshop's drop cloth before spray painting or working with plaster.

+ 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.

+ When leaving the building, students must ensure all lights are turned off, all electrical items must be unplugged, and doors must be closed.

+ 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

BARD COLLEGE BERLIN - FA220

FALL 2025 WEEKLY SCHEDULE*

*There may be adjustments to the timing of assignments as course progresses. All students will be informed of any new expectations and/or deadlines. It is the sole responsibility of each student to be in charge of getting their own film developed at the lab close to campus.

Every assignment requires you to hand in test strips for your prints and contact sheets in addition to your prints. ANYTIME you submit more prints than what the assignment calls for, you will ALWAYS receive extra credit! EVERY assignment requires a contact sheet submission.

2 September: Week 1

Introductions, expectations, and rules. Assignment of printing times in the darkroom. Introduction to the darkroom and some photogram printing!

Bring 3 to 6 (if you have them) of your favorite black and white analog prints to class for discussion. The discussion will include where you want to go with your work during the class, what you hope to achieve in the class and what you want to try out.

9 September: Week 2 - Cameras and Starter Kit handed out

Reminder tutorial on how to use the BCB analogue cameras

Assignment #1 - Tell me a story - Due 7 October

Some of you have taken The Slow Photo with me at some point and I would like to continue an assignment you all did in that class called 'The Photo Sleuth' - just to jog your memory, I lent you a vintage photograph from my collection and one part of the assignment required you to find out as much as you could about the photograph and the second part was re-creating an image based on the image you had chosen.

For this assignment, I would like you to take the photograph you have been given and build a story line around it in with at least 6 images (more is, of course, extra credit). The photos can be any size, with or without borders.

But, you must include some sort of alternative process with this assignment;

Double exposure/ toning with a toner of some kind/ photogram/ scratching on the negative/ drawing on a negative/ what ever you can think of - you need to include this into your series and conceptually it has to make sense as to why you are including it!

The story line must be visually understandable in the sequence you present for the critique.

Your contact sheet(s) are also due for this (and all future assignments) assignment this semester.

Each person has to do a presentation on a photographer that is assigned to them;

10 min presentation - min 10 slides > Due 23 Sept and 30 Sept

16 September: Week 3

In-class review so far on the project - 1-2 prints due in addition to contact sheets/ideas/etc - if we have time, in class work time

Demo; toning baths with alternative methods (tea/coffee/avocado pits/onion skins etc)

23 September: Week 4

Slide show presentations due + Demo: double exposures - varying ways to do this

In-class review so far on the project - 1-2 prints due in addition to contact sheets/ideas/etc

30 September: Week 5

Night shoot meet up! We will meet off campus and do a night shoot together!!

7 October: Week 6 - Assignment #1 due - In-class critique

we will be using the Liz Lerman critique method!

Assignment #2 - Mein Schatz (My Treasure) Due: 11 November

The majority of students at BCB have travelled from afar to attend. Although it's exciting, it's also hard, lonely and very difficult to be away from home, from family, from friends and from what you know. This assignment gives you a chance to connect with people either on campus or in your community who have moved from somewhere else to live, work, or study in Berlin by interviewing them in relation to their new home and what they have brought with them that is extreme value for them. Please interview each person, photograph them and also photograph their favorite / most treasured object.

Assignment details and requirements:

In essence this is a portrait assignment with text.

Interview 4/5 people; one person has to be younger than you, and one person has to be at least the age of a parent or older.

8/10 images are due; 2 images per person you interview; one portrait and one of their favourite/most valued object object

You can have flexibility with how you want to present the favorite object of each person: photogram or color machine print from Rossmann for example - or maybe you have another idea?

For the final presentation you will need to include the text with the images in some way.

How you want to do that is up to you!

14 October: Week 7 - what is your plan with Assignment #2

Bring the names of the people you plan to interview/how are you going to go about it?

What plans do you have?

Slide show presentation on this topic - people and their objects

FALL BREAK ———> 20 - 26 October!

28 October: NO PHYSICAL CLASS, but 10/15 min individual zoom meetings

I would like to see your work and how you have been continuing with this project

4 November: Hannah Goldstein will be doing an artist talk about her practice/what it means to collaborate with others/how photograph can be used to express activism

Hannah will also do an in-class review of the work you are doing for this project which is due next week.

11 November: Week 10 - Assignment #2 is due

critiques will follow the Liz Lerman method

Assignment #3 - This is it - Due 2 December

FINALLY - you can focus on whatever topic you would like for this last assignment!

You will need to submit 6-8 prints for this assignment + your contact sheet(s)

18 November: Week 11 - In-class check in with everyone; what are you working on

I want to see 2 prints and understand your focus for this assignment

what are you doing?!

25 November: Week 12 - In-class check - 3 prints per person - informal critique

2 December : Week 13 - **Final Critique!**

Install for Open Studio exhibition this week!

Everyone bring one extra print to class for a print swap!