

FA340 How Long Is Now? – A Photographic Portrait of Berlin

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Office Hours: By appointment
Course Description

The history of Berlin is exciting, tumultuous, horrifying, inspiring, and fascinating all at the same time. As all large cities, Berlin is forever changing. This class captures the stories of Berlin through the camera. The quote “how long is now?”, was a famous text on the facade of the legendary art squat Tacheles, which no longer exists. It begs us to ask the question how long is now? How long is Berlin, Berlin? What is Berlin right now? And what does that mean? Through photographic walks this class will explore the city and its history from the early 1900’s until today. The class will visit different neighborhoods and as we walk through the city, we will learn what, how and who shaped Berlin to make it the city that it is today. We will learn the history of the areas, what art and political movements took place there and what important people lived there. We will use this historical knowledge to ask how Berlin is transforming and through our photography document and artistically express the changes and currents of present-day Berlin.

The first class will start with an in-depth lecture about Berlin photographers and photography. Following, every other class will meet on campus, or in a new part of the city. The students will be asked to respond photographically to the area and its history and stories which is explored that week. We will make studio visits to two Berlin photographers to see how they have portrayed Berlin. At the end of the semester each student will have a project of images that will be their portrait of Berlin. These can be portraits of the city’s architecture and infrastructure, as well as of the people who live here, looking at how we shape the city and how the city shapes us.

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

Requirements

Being on time to class. Showing up late more than twice will affect your grade.
If you will be late or miss class – notification is mandatory per what’s app or e mail before class starts.
Presenting pictures, assignments and presentations without reminder.
Engage in critiques and discussions.
Participation in the final exhibition, including installing and taking down the exhibition.

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

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) 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.

Attendance of all classes and planned artist talks 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 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

Students are asked to make one presentation about an artist, and they will take place on October 15th and November 12th.

Final projects and artist statements are due on December 10th in class.

The students will also be asked to participate in the Open Studios exhibition at the end of the semester.

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 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.

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 asked to research a photographer that has worked in Berlin and present a ten-minute presentation about them and their lives 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.

Grade Breakdown

50% of the grade will be based on the weekly presented images and how the students photographed and explored in the specific areas of Berlin that we visited.

30% on class participation and presentations.

20% on the final project.

Schedule

September 3rd

Introductions, history of Berlin photography lecture

September 10th

City walk: Rixdorf to Tempelhofer Feld.

Meeting point: Böhmischer Platz

September 17th

On campus: picture feedback and critique.

Homework: 8 -12 images that were taken in the area that we visited the previous week, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

September 24th

City walk: Friedrichshain – from the Stasi to Berghain

Meeting point: Frankfurter Tor

October 1st

On campus: picture feedback and critique.

Homework: 8 -12 images that were taken in the area that we visited the previous week, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

October 8th

City walk: Schöneberg – music and rebellion in Schöneberg

Meeting point: Nollendorfplatz

Monday October 13th

17.00 – 20.00 Make-up class (instead of October 29th) with artists talks by Barbara Wolff & Christian Reister

October 15th

On campus: picture feedback and critique.

Student presentations of assigned artists.

Homework: 8 -12 images that were taken in the area that we visited the previous week, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

October 22nd – fall break

October 29th – no class

November 5th

City walk: Kreuzberg 36

Meeting point: Künstlerhaus Bethanien

November 12th

On campus: picture feedback and critique.

Student presentations of assigned artists.

Homework: 8 -12 images that were taken in the area that we visited the previous week, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

November 19th

City walk: The fall of the wall & Red Wedding

Meeting point: Bornholmer Straße/Björnson Straße – Platz des 9. November 1989.

November 26th

City walk: Mitte

Meeting point: Rosa Luxemburg Platz – in front of the Volksbühne.

December 3rd

On campus: picture feedback and critique.

Homework: Please bring images from the last two walks. 8 -12 from each walk, all printed in minimum 13 x 18 cm size.

December 10th

Final Project presentations

Policy on the use of 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

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