

FA108 Your own point of view – Beginners in digital photography

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to digital photography with a focus on artistic expression. It is designed for those who wish to learn digital photography at a basic level — covering the fundamentals of the camera, including exposure, composition, and lighting — while also developing their photographic work into a personal project.

The course includes in-class critiques and discussions on the choice of method, technique, subject matter, and presentation. Parts of the course will involve reviewing work of both contemporary and historical photographers, alongside introductions to the technical and theoretical tools you will need for your own practice.

There will be opportunities to explore both documentary approaches and staged photography. Throughout the semester, students will complete a series of assignments that will serve as the basis for developing their own photo series. We will ask questions such as: What is my unique way of looking at the world? What is my own point of view?

It is an advantage if you can use your own camera in this course, but a limited number of cameras are also available to borrow from BCB for shorter periods of time.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during class time.
- Actively participate in critiques and discussions.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- 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 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.

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

In this course, students will be given a number of smaller assignments to be executed in class, for the next class or over a longer period of time. Some materials may need to be purchased / acquired directly by each student. 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.

The assignments required for the course are included in the syllabus but all necessary details will be given in class. If a student misses a class, the student themselves is required to find out relevant information about missed material and/or assignments, either from the instructor or other students in the class.

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 will receive feedback for their course work during and at the end of the semester. 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

Class participation (includes attendance, maintenance of all common and private spaces used for production / rehearsal, communication with Professor and other students): 33,3 %

Homework and in-class work: 33,3 %

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations): 33,3 %

Schedule

Week 1 January 26 9-12.15 (1)	Introduction of the course Introduction of each student to the class What is a digital photograph? Looking at the students' different cameras as well as the school's: basic functions Each student will be assigned a photographer to present to the class during the semester. If you have a camera, bring it to class!
Week 2 February 2 9-12.15 (2)	Mandatory in-class facility orientation (<i>could be switched to another date if necessary</i>) Questions on last week's class Slide presentation in class, discussion Exposure: shutter speed – assignment in class For Feb 9: Three images showing movement (details will be given in class)
Week 3 February 9 9-12.15 (3)	Due: Three images showing movement Questions on last week's class Exposure: aperture – assignment in class. Practicing depth of field. What is an image file? What are file formats? Resolution? Student presentation of photographer For Feb 16: Self portrait
Week 4 February 16 9-12.15 (4)	Due: Self portrait In class: street photography – what is your approach? Light metering/how the camera thinks Student presentation of photographer For Feb 23: Portrait of someone you know well (details in class)
Week 5 February 23 9-12.15 (5)	Due: Portrait of someone you know Student presentation of photographer Looking at White balance For March 2: Reading of the text: The Photographer's Eye (will be handed out in class)
Week 6 March 2 9-12.15 (6)	Due: Reading of the text: The Photographer's Eye Discussion of the text. How would you characterize a photograph? Student presentation of photographer Assignment in class: The Photographer's Eye – The Detail, Time, Vantage point, The Frame Slide presentation For March 16: "The Thing Itself"
Week 6 March 7 SATURDAY! (7) cirka 12–16	Saturday session! (instead of March 9) Exhibition visits – details TBA (take notes!)
Week 7 March 9	NO CLASS
Week 8	Due: "The Thing Itself"

March 16 9-12.15 (8)	Reflections and discussion on the exhibitions we saw together. Student presentation of photographer – Practice different light situations in the studio – For March 23: Photo diary for one day of an imaginary person (work in pairs)
Week 9 March 23 9-12.15 (9)	Due: Photo diary for one day of an imaginary person Photo excursion, the whole class covering one specific area. Student presentation of photographer For April 13: Film still
March 30 SPRING BREAK <i>spring break</i> <i>no class</i>	<i>no class (fall break)</i>
Week 10 April 6 “Easter Monday” <i>no class</i>	<i>no class (holiday)</i>
Week 11 April 13 9-12.15 (10)	Due: Film still Work together with the images from excursion last week. In class: Saving images, file formats Student presentation of photographer
Week 12 April 20 9-12.15 (11)	Decisions on everybody's final work – discussions of ideas in the group. Make time plan for each student. Student presentation of photographer For April 27: Bring selection of 10 images, prints or files. Bring all your material in digital form
Week 13 April 27 9-12.15 (12)	Due: Selection of 10 images, prints or files. Bring all your material in digital form In class: basic image processing
Week 14 May 4 9-12.15 (13)	Presentation of your final work (details in class) Evaluation online Last preparations for “Open Studios” or other end of semester exhibition/presentation
Week 15 May 11 (14)	Completion week / Inspection of spaces Students are required to be on campus during completion week.

Please note that due dates and schedule can be subject to change as the semester progresses!

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. Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
2. 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.
3. For your safety and the safety of others, smoking and drinking alcohol are strictly prohibited anywhere inside the building.
4. 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.
5. Spray painting and handling any hazardous (chemical or combustible) material is not permitted inside the building.
6. All work surfaces (indoor and outdoor) must be adequately protected with the workshop's drop cloth before spray painting or working with plaster.
7. 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.
8. When leaving the building, students must ensure all lights are turned off, all electrical items must be unplugged, and doors must be closed.
9. 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