

FA113 Introduction to Glassmaking

Seminar Leader: Nadania Idriss
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

In this weekly class, held every Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, students will dive into a wide range of glassmaking techniques. The curriculum covers mold-making, mold-blowing, glass fusing, stained glass (Tiffany technique), and glassblowing. The course will conclude with a pop-up show where students can present their finished sculptures to family and friends.

Students are expected to arrive at least 10 minutes before class begins. Please come dressed in clothing you don't mind getting dirty, and note that **closed-toed shoes are mandatory** for safety.

This workshop is designed to provide an immersive learning experience. Participants are encouraged to approach the class with an open mind and plenty of ideas. It's important not to be discouraged if their initial attempts are not entirely successful.

Please note there is a fee of €50 for participation in this course to cover material expenses. This can be paid in cash, by wire transfer or PayPal to info@berlinglas.org

Requirements

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.

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

Introduction to Glassmaking offers students the chance to work hands-on with a wide range of glass techniques, using the material as their primary medium of production. All glass materials will be provided; however, a **50€ course fee** is required. No external materials may be brought into the class, as each segment focuses on specific techniques, and the schedule does not allow for individual detours or independent side-projects.

Students are required to produce and present artworks that correspond directly to the techniques taught in each segment. Evaluation will be based primarily on the completion and quality of these assigned works.

In addition, students will be assessed on their ability to work independently, responsibly, and in good communication with the Professor, the Instructors, and their peers. Professionalism, time management, and ambition in developing assigned projects all form part of the assessment criteria. This also includes preparing their workspace, participating fully during production, and **cleaning up the studio at the end of each session** as part of their regular responsibilities at Bard College Berlin.

Regular attendance, reliability, and respectful studio conduct are expected throughout the course.

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): 70 %

Homework and in-class work (keeping a journal): 20 %

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 10 %

Schedule

Module I: Foundations of Mold-Blowing

Week 1 - Intro, Studio Tour, Mold-Making principles
Week 2 - Blow-Molds
Week 3 - Blow-Molds
Week 4 - Mold-Blowing
Week 5 - Cold-Work

Module II: Making Flat Glass 3-Dimensional

Week 6 – Glass Fusing
Week 7 – Stained Glass

Week 8 – Lecture! Annealing Schedules, types of glass and what is the difference between Art & Design | Products and Editions

Spring Break March 30-April 6

Module III: Some Like it HOT!

Week 9 - paperweights & cups

Week 10 - color cups

Week 11 - working together as a team

Week 12 - practice makes perfect and intro to the cold shop, plan Open Studio Demo

Grades Submission

- **Reports of Students of Concern are due end of week 8, i.e. March 20, 2026**
- **Final grades for graduating students are due May 8, 2026 by noon. *NB please set your submission dates accordingly so as to meet this deadline***
- **Final grades for all students are due on May 29, 2026**

Reminders about the above deadlines will be communicated by registrar@berlin.bard.edu]

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