

IS123: Academic Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences

(Ulrike Wagner, Nassim Abi Ghanem and Nina Tecklenburg)

Fall 2025

Creative Component Section

starting in week 6

Course time: Mon 9:00 –12:15

Location: Factory, performance space

Instructor: Nina Tecklenburg, n.tecklenburg@berlin.bard.edu

Office: K24

Office hours: by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

The Creative Component colloquium is part of the course IS123 Academic Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. APS and HAST students who pursue a senior thesis project including a Creative Component will change to this colloquium group from week 6 onwards. After gaining foundational skills in academic research and writing during the first five weeks of the semester (choosing a topic or object of study; outlining the main components of an article or scholarly paper; locating, gathering, collating, and interpreting the sources needed for the project; proper citation, attribution, and bibliographic documentation), students of this particular section will be introduced to basic approaches and methods of artistic research. They will learn how to develop an artistic concept in relation to their overall research question and how to start a fruitful process of artistic research creation and reflection. Short workshop sessions and exercises, studio time, peer reviewing and productive feedback methods will be key elements of the classroom. With the participation of thesis advisors and other faculty members, the semester will end with individual draft presentations of both creative and written components. The aim of the course is to support students in developing a solid ground for their senior thesis projects.

Peer support and productive feedback

Continuing to develop **your overall research topic, and artistic research process** is important in this course, as is developing your ability to support your **peers' research and creation process** through productive feedback. You will learn and practice assisting others with their work using a variety of feedback methods.

Assignments

1. Annotated Bibliography

Upload a short ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (AB) (minimum: two sources) to Google Shared Drive and bring your entries to class **on the days listed on the syllabus**. The materials should be organized alphabetically under two headings, "Secondary Sources" and "Primary Sources," with one bibliographic entry for each. The annotation itself (again, for each entry) should be a short paragraph in which you indicate what you gleaned from the reading and how you see it as relevant to your project (you will be provided with a model so you can see what it should look like).

2. Draft Presentation (written + creative component)

The draft presentation includes the presentation of both, a written and artistic/creative draft. Each student will be assigned a presentation slot. **The presentation should not be longer than 20 minutes!**

Written Draft:

You will be asked to circulate an **5-7-page piece of writing** to the members of the CC-colloquium and to your advisor. This writing selection must be circulated on the **Thursday before your presentation** so that people have time to read it. All drafts must be submitted via Google Shared Folder and be emailed to all course members. If it is circulated late, the whole presentation will be graded down one grade per day; so make sure to circulate those writing selections on time. On the day of your presentation, you should be prepared to speak about how the writing selection fits into the larger project, what your concerns are, and what you're planning to do next. This presentation shouldn't be a recap of the writing sample, as everyone will have already read it. It should include your research question and topic, an overview of chapters, open questions to discuss, and a timeline for the steps ahead. A PowerPoint presentation is helpful, but is not explicitly required.

Artistic Draft:

In the second part of your presentation you will be asked to present a first draft of your creative/artistic research. **Please bring artistic material (not just an abstract idea, but a first draft of artistic work!).** Depending on your chosen artistic medium, this can be a painting sketch, a short performance, a piece of creative writing, video snippets, sound recordings, etc. Be prepared to talk about the relation of your creative component to the overall project.

The presentation will be followed by a constructive feedback session. Your thesis advisor will attend your presentation and might have some contributions to make or might be helpful in "filtering" the discussion and figuring how ideas from it could be beneficial for the project.

3. Declaration of your thesis title for Spring 2026 graduates on Friday, December 5, 2025 at 3pm.

4. Submission of 7-page Thesis Excerpt: Due on December 19

This excerpt must be submitted to your course instructor and thesis advisor. Your document must be properly formatted with footnotes, include at least four secondary sources, and include a bibliography.

You may not submit the same piece of writing that you submitted for your draft presentation.

However, it is acceptable to submit a heavily revised version of your draft if it is accompanied by a letter explaining what changes you have made and why.

Use of AI

I agree with and will enforce the following statement from the Harvard Kennedy School on the use of AI: "It is generally acceptable to use generative AI for finding information and for solidifying your knowledge of the course content. For instance, it is fine to use AI-powered web search and to have conversations with tools like ChatGPT to help you explore ideas, refine your thinking, identify examples, and better understand the course material. However, unless otherwise specified, it is a violation of the HKS Academic Code to incorporate into your coursework text produced predominantly by generative AI — similar to copying from a book or article. For example, it would be inappropriate to simply rewrite a draft generated by AI."

Please note that computer-generated text and ideas (including anything from ChatGPT) are sources that require citation.

Attendance

Because Bard College Berlin has an intensive, student-centered and seminar-based educational model, **attendance at all sessions of courses is mandatory.**

- However, you may encounter circumstances that prevent you from attending classes for which you may be excused, meaning that the absences will not impact your grade. These circumstances include illness, religious observance, military obligation, attendance at a conference, a Bard Network event, a civic engagement initiative, a research trip or another compelling circumstance outside of your control (i.e. court appearance, visa appointment, death of a family member). Optional non-academic travel, hosting visiting family and friends, or work schedules are **not grounds** for excused absences. You will be allowed to **self-report your absences one time**, meaning that a notification informing your instructor about the reason for your absence before or within 24 hours of the class is sufficient. If you miss class more than once, you will need to provide your instructor with appropriate documentation in order to be excused (i.e. a doctor's note, official leave of absence).
- All **unexcused absences** will lower your final grade by one step (i.e. if your final grade is a B, you will be downgraded to a B-).
- If you are facing the unusual situation of long-term, serious medical or personal emergencies (generally lasting more than two weeks), you can request a Leave of Absence, to be approved by the Deans, the Head of Student Life or the Director of Academic Services.
- If you have any **general medical issues** or other concerns that could impact your compliance with these regulations, you need to inform your instructor during the first week of the semester. For information on disability accommodation, you should consult with Maria Anderson Long, Head of Student Life: m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu
The process for applying for disability accommodation is explained in the Student Handbook with links to the forms here: <http://www.berlin.bard.edu/for-students/student-handbook/policies-and-regulations/#c4206>

Grade Breakdown

Participation and Attendance 40%

Participation includes attendance; homework: class readings, draft submissions, reading other student's drafts; contributions to discussions, exercises and feedback sessions; active collaboration with peers; communication with professors and other students.

Annotated Bibliography 10%

Grading criteria: submission as per schedule and according to annotated bibliography prompt.

Draft Presentation: 30%

Grading criteria: submission of written draft, Presentation according to prompt.

Submission of declaration of thesis title (Friday, December 5, 2025 at 3pm) 10%

Grading criteria: submission as per schedule

Submission 7-page Thesis Excerpt (due Dec 19) 10%

This grade is concerned with the submission of the thesis excerpt, not with the actual content of the excerpt. The latter will be discussed with

the written component advisor.

Course Schedule

Week 1-5: Humanities and Creative Component sections together

Week 1: September 1	Introduction and Getting Started on Your Project <i>1-paragraph Project Description due in class</i> Introduction: Creative Component
Week 2: September 8	Selections from Graff and Birkenstein, <i>They Say / I Say</i> (Fourth Ed.)
Week 3: September 15	Workshop 1, Learning Commons: Research Techniques and Introduction to BCB Library Resources
Week 4: September 22	Writing & Research (discussion of theses by BCB alumni)
Week 5: September 29	Workshop 2, Learning Commons Citation & Style

Humanities & Social Sciences Section and Creative Component Section split into two groups

Classes take place in the Factory performance space

Week 6: October 6	Creative Research I <u>Workshop:</u> Bring one object, image, sound or movement to class that you find inspiring for your creative component. <u>Reading due:</u> Hannula, Mika (and others). 2014: "Basic formula of artistic research", in: <i>Artistic Research Methodology. Narrative, Power and the Public</i> . New York: Peter Lang.
Week 7: October 13	Studio Time + Creative Research II In-class examples of artistic research Homework: start a personal CC journal

FALL BREAK (Mon, Oct. 20 - Sun Oct. 26)

Week 8: October 27	Studio time + feedback round
Week 9: November 3	Studio time + exercise + feedback round
Week 10: November 10	Draft presentations + short round
Week 11: November 17	Draft presentations + short round
Week 12: November 24	Draft presentations + short round

Week 13: December 1	Draft presentations + short round
	!!! Submission of declaration of thesis title: Dec 5, 3pm !!!
Week 14: December 8	Draft presentations, rap-up, time-line exercise + final feedback round
Week 15: December 15	Completion week
Friday, December 19	7-Page thesis excerpt due to instructor and advisor

Additional Deadlines

Declaration of your thesis title for Spring 2026 graduates on **Friday, December 5, 2025** at **3pm**. You need to complete the declaration of BA Thesis Title form. The form can be picked up from the shelf on the wall outside the Registrar's Office in the basement of P24. An electronic version of the form will also be emailed to you by the registration office. You must obtain the signatures of your supervisor and chosen second reader, before submitting the form to the Registrar's office – registrar@berlin.bard.edu – in person or electronically by the deadline above.

Submission of the final thesis for Spring 2026 graduates on **Friday, April 10, 2026** at 3pm. Guidelines for submission will be made available to you over the course of the research seminar this semester.

Submission of Creative Component, exhibition and CC reflection for Spring 2026 graduates **in week 12 of the spring semester 2026 (exact date tbc)**.