

FA 145 Foundations of Filmmaking: The Short Form

Seminar Leader: Janina Schabig

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Office Hours: after class or by appointment

Course Description

This hands-on course explores the technical foundations of filmmaking. You will be introduced to different kinds of cameras, learn all about your camera and how to use its manual settings, work with natural and studio lighting, record and design your own sound and navigate through the basics of editing in Adobe Premiere. Class sessions combine brief lectures, screenings, discussions, and practical exercises, encouraging you to develop both a critical eye and a personal voice in filmmaking. By the end of the course, you will have produced a series of short works, and built the skills to begin translating your ideas into moving images.

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 of ALL classes is expected.
- More than one unexcused absence will affect your participation grade for the course.
- Arriving late will be noted. Multiple late arrivals will affect your participation grade.

Please note that Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences, whether excused or unexcused. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

Assessment

Your attendance and participation are key components of this course. This includes arriving on time, coming prepared with all necessary materials, and actively engaging in class discussions and hands-on exercises. You will be assessed on your overall engagement, contributions to conversations, responsibility in group or independent work, timely completion of assignments, and clear, kind communication with both classmates and your instructor.

Your final grade will also include an in-class technical quiz and 3 short film assignments. The short films are evaluated based on effort, technical skill, as well as the conceptual and aesthetic quality of the finished work. Detailed handouts regarding each short film assignment will be provided in class. All films are due via google drive upload at least 24 hours before they will be presented in class:

Short Film # 1: due Tuesday, February 24, by 2 pm

Create a 1-3 minute visual poem by capturing a place, subject or condition.

Short Film # 2: due Tuesday, March 24, by 2 pm

Create a 2-5 minute micro-portrait of a person/ people or activity.

Short Film # 3: due Tuesday, April 28, by 2 pm (+ idea pitch on Wednesday, April 08)

Create a 3-10 minute original short film on a subject of your choosing.

Policy on Late Submission of Assignments / Presentations

Assignments that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade. Assignments that are more than 24 hours late will only be accepted if submitted by the new deadline agreed upon by both parties. Thereafter, you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

You will receive a mid- and end-of-semester grade and are also entitled and encouraged to make an appointment with me to receive individual feedback regarding your class progress at any time.

Grade Breakdown

10% Tech Quiz

15% Short Film Assignment # 1

20% Short Film Assignment # 2

25% Short Film Assignment # 3 (05% for the idea pitch, 20% for the film)

30% Attendance & Participation

Schedule

Date	Agenda	Deadlines
week 01 January 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome & Introduction AV Resources Orientation 	
week 02 February 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Exercise: Camera I 	
week 03 February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Exercise: Camera II 	AV Workshop: Editing Video Sign up for and take the AV Workshop on video editing before February 20
week 04 February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Exercise: Composition 	
week 05 February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Short Film # 1 Introduction to Short Film Assignment # 2 	Short Film # 1 Upload by Tuesday, February 24, 2 pm
week 06 March 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Exercise: Lighting 	
week 07 March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Exercise: Sound I 	AV Workshop: Editing Sound Sign up for and take the AV Workshop on sound editing before March 20
week 08 March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Class Exercise: Sound II 	
week 09 March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Short Film # 2 Introduction to Short Film Assignment # 3 	Short Film # 2 Upload by Tuesday, March 24, 2 pm
week 10 April 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Break 	Research what you'd like to do for your 3. short film and prepare a pitch deck to present to class after spring break.
week 11 April 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tech Quiz Present Pitch Decks 	Pitch for Short Film # 3 Bring your pitch deck to class
week 12 April 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest Speaker 	

week 13 April 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD: Working On Short Film # 3 	
week 14 April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Short Film # 3 	Short Film # 3 Upload by Tuesday, April 28, 2pm
week 15 May 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Reflection & Evaluations Final Screening 	Final Film Screening Choose one of your films made for this class, incorporate feedback and upload an improved, finalized version by Tuesday, May 05, 2pm
week 16 April 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion Week 	

* This schedule is subject to change. Any updates will be reflected in the classwork section of our Google Classroom, where the most current version of the syllabus will always be available.

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