

FA250

Immersive Spatial Experiences

Seminar Leader: Magdalena Emmerig (she/her)
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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

In this practicing arts seminar, students will explore various forms of spatial design with a focus on creating immersive spaces. Within a theatrical context, immersion describes an experience in which the boundary between the stage and the audience disappears, allowing the visitor to become part of the performance. It can also refer to a physical experience where the visitor enters a self-contained, artificial world.

The course combines an artistic exploration of architecture with an introduction to spatial design, asking: What narratives are embedded within a space, and how can the experience of that space be shaped? Throughout the seminar, we will examine diverse artistic approaches, analyzing the architectural works of visual artist Gregor Schneider, as well as stage designs by Anna Viebrock and the artist duo Vegard Vinge and Ida Müller. We will also attend theater performances and exhibitions to directly experience and reflect on these environments.

Over the course of the semester, students will collect visual materials to develop mood boards, learn to articulate a conceptual approach for their own spatial settings, and experiment with various visualization techniques ranging from drawing and painting to model building. The second half of the semester will focus heavily on model-building to manipulate atmosphere through structural adjustments and lighting design. The course concludes with students presenting their final spatial design projects.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Engage in discussion and group feedback throughout the semester.
- Allocate time to develop and pursue their individual project outside class time.
- 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.

Further unexcused absences, especially on presentation days will affect the participation grade. The option of remote participation can be discussed when requested early on.

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

Immersive Spatial Experiences is a course allowing students to develop their own project. Students will be requested to do research, continuously develop their project idea and submit a model of their course project in scale 1:25 or 1:50. Most tools for model building will be provided as well as material. Some materials may need to be acquired directly by each student at their own expense depending on individual project goals. Time for model building is not scheduled during class hours.

Each student will be asked to give a 10 minute theoretical presentation during class time. Students can choose on the topic of their presentation together with the instructor.

Feedback and group discussion is an essential part of this class. 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. This assessment also includes preparation, production, and cleaning up of spaces used at Bard College Berlin.

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): 30 %

Homework and in-class work: 40 %

Project presentations for critiques (includes end of semester presentations / performances): 30 %

Schedule

Week 1: Sep 4th

- Introduction to concepts of immersion in Theater, Performance Art and Spatial Design.
- Introduction to the works of Gregor Schneider, Anna Viebrock and Vegard Vinge/Ida

Müller.

Week 2: Sep 11th

- Guest speaker: Theater maker and stage designer Julian Wolf Eicke
- Factory introduction

Week 3: Sep 18th

- Homework due: prepare presentation on a topic of your choice (10 min).
- In class: individual presentations (10 min each) and Q&A (10 min each).

Week 4: Sep 25th

- Homework due: Read excerpts from: Machon, Josephine: Immersive Theatres. Intimacy and Immediacy in Contemporary Performance. Basingstoke u.a.: Palgrave Macmillan 2013. (text will be provided)
- In class: discussion of text
- Introduction to the works of the immersive performance collective The Agency

Week 5: Oct 2nd

- Setting up common workspace
- Introduction to sketching and basics of model building (taking measurements, scaling, materials and more...)

Week 6: Oct 9th

- Homework due: create a mood board with pictures of spaces and settings or experiences that catch ones attention.
- In class: Presentation of mood boards and discussion

Week 7: Oct 16th (Please note: This is not the regularly scheduled location!)

- Excursion to Hamburger Bahnhof - Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart to see the works of Gregor Schneider and other spatial installation art.
- Discussion of impressions (on site).

Fall break: October 19 – October 23

Week 8: Oct 30st

- Homework due: prepare presentation of your course project: sketches and tryouts.
- In class: Introduction to DAS Feedback method.
- Students present their course project (max. 20 minutes each) and Q&A (max. 20 minutes).

Week 9: Nov 6th

- Homework due: prepare presentation of your course project: sketches and tryouts.
- Students present their course project (max. 20 minutes each) and Q&A (max. 20 minutes).

Week 10: Nov 13th

- Individual Consultation

Week 11: Nov 20th

- Homework due: model of course project in scale 1:25 or 1:50.
- students will set up a photo studio with lighting equipment and take pictures of models in various lighting situations.

Week 12: Nov 27th

- In-class presentation and discussion of 4 projects.

Week 13: Dec 4th

- In-class presentation and discussion of 4 projects.

Week 14: Dec 11th

- Reflection on artistic process and feedback.
- Wrap up.

Week 15: Completion week / Inspection

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