

IS123: Academic Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences
Fall 2026

Creative Component Section

Course time: Mon 9:00 –12:15

Location: Week 1-5: Lecture Hall, week 6-14: 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, and interpreting the sources needed for the project; proper citation, 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. Submission thesis project proposal

During the first two weeks of the thesis colloquium you are asked to elaborate on your research paragraph and turn it into a more comprehensive 500-word thesis project proposal.

2. Annotated Bibliography (week 3, 4, 5 for CC students)

Upload a short ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (AB) to Google Shared Drive and bring your entries to the class **on the days listed on the syllabus** (minimum: two sources per listed week). 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).

3. Weekly CC journal entries (week 1-8)

Keeping a regular journal of your creative process is part of your artistic research — it helps you structure your ideas and develop them further. You should submit a minimum of one journal entry on a weekly basis (week 1-8) by uploading it on our Google Shared Folder. Journal entries can include written ideas, uploaded images of your sketches or drafts, reflections on the topic/artistic medium/artistic concept, research on other art and artists, etc.

Together with a short CC project abstract, the completed CC journal should be submitted on Wednesday, October 28, midnight.

4. 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.

5. Declaration of your thesis title for Spring 2026 graduates on Friday, November 27, 2026 at 3pm

6. Submission of 7-page Thesis Excerpt: Due on Friday, Dec 18, 2026

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

As stated in the [Student Handbook 2024-25](#) in regards to 14.3 Academic Misconduct:

Acts of academic misconduct, such as the following, will result in a disciplinary process and lead to outcomes:

1. Plagiarism: The presentation of the work or words of another as one's own, without appropriate attribution and/or citation, whether intentional or not. Plagiarism includes:

a. The attempt to pass off the work of others as one's own

- b. Presenting the exact words of others as one's own
 - c. Presenting the exact words or paraphrasing borrowings from other sources without appropriate attribution and/or citation
2. Collusion: The collaboration by two or more students on an assignment without appropriate attribution or authorization. Providing one's own work to someone else to copy or copying work provided by another, whether wholly or in part, is collusion
3. Resubmission of one's own work: The re-use of one's own work (whether wholly or in part) for another assignment without appropriate attribution. Work that a student has published or completed outwith their study at the College must also be appropriately cited
4. Cheating: the attempt to deceive by gaining or providing unauthorized advantage or assistance in a College examination or assignment, including attempts to copy from other students in an examination, communicating answers with another student in an examination, the use of unauthorized materials or information and prepared answers in an examination, impersonation (taking an examination on behalf of another or having someone take an examination on one's own behalf), and the submission of academic work acquired from another student, AI platforms, or via essay mills and other such commercial enterprises providing writing services.

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 according to annotated bibliography prompt.

Submission CC journal + CC abstract (Wednesday, October 28, midnight) 10%

Grading criteria: submission according to prompt.

Draft Presentation: 20%

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

Submission of declaration of thesis title (Friday, November 27, 2026 at 3pm) 10%

Grading criteria: submission as per schedule

Submission 7-page Thesis Excerpt (Fri, Dec 18) 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: August 31	Introduction and Getting Started on Your Project <i>Bring your research paragraph to class</i>
Week 2: September 7	Selections from Graff and Birkenstein, <i>They Say / I Say</i> (Fourth Ed.)
Friday, September 11	Submission of thesis project proposal (= revised and elaborated research paragraph) & advisor confirmation
Week 3: September 14	Annotated Bibliography Workshop 1 Learning Commons: Research Techniques and Introduction to BCB Library Resources
CC students until 1pm	CC examples + your CC project ideas

Week 4: September 21	Annotated Bibliography Writing & Research (discussion of theses by BCB alumni)
CC students until 1pm	CC examples + your CC project ideas

Week 5: September 28	Annotated Bibliography Workshop 2, Learning Commons Citation & Style
CC students until 1pm	Artistic Research I

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 II (with Dorothea von Hantelmann) + Studio Time
-------------------	--

Week 7: October 12	Career Service workshop + Studio Time
--------------------	--

FALL BREAK (October 19-23)

Week 8: October 26 October 28	Studio time: focus on your artistic practice; 9am-12:15pm Submission CC journal and abstract (200-500 words)
----------------------------------	---

Week 9: November 2	Exercises + short round
--------------------	--------------------------------

Week 10: November 9	Draft presentations + short round
---------------------	--

Week 11: November 16	Draft presentations + short round
----------------------	--

Week 12: November 23	Draft presentations + short round
----------------------	--

Friday, November 27:	Submission of declaration of thesis title form
----------------------	---

Week 13: November 30	Draft presentations + short round
----------------------	--

Week 14: December 7	Internal presentation, feedback round and timeline exercise
---------------------	--

Week 15:	Completion week
----------	------------------------

Friday, May 15	7-Page thesis excerpt due to instructor and advisor
----------------	--

Additional Deadlines

Submission of the final thesis for **Spring 2027** graduates is on **Friday, April 16, 2027** 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 **Fall 2026** graduates **in week 12 of the spring semester 2027 (exact date tbc)**.