Undergraduate Projects in Studio Art: Autobiography Berlin

Course Number
ART-UE.9916001

SAMPLE SYLLABUS – ACTUAL SYLLABUS MAY VARY

Instructor Contact Information
Agnes Lux
atl265@nyu.edu

Course Details
Tuesdays, 4:00pm – 7:30pm
NYUB St. Agnes, Studio

Prerequisites
none

Units earned
3 credits earned

Course Description
This is an interdisciplinary studio art class with required readings, discussions, films and field trips. Unless otherwise instructed, students are encouraged to work in any medium of their choice: painting, photography, video, performance, sculpture, etc.

Course Objective
This class is about testing the boundaries of one's own methods of making and becoming aware of the sources one finds inspiring. As you find yourself in a new context – the city of Berlin – and have left familiar patterns behind, use this distance as a chance to review your habits and reevaluate your personal processes of art production.

Assessment Components
Completion of assignments #1, #2, #3, #4: each 15%

Class Participation: 15%

Response papers (5 Papers/Homework): 1-2 pages, double spaced, 12pt., counting total 15%

Class presentation (10-15min.): 10%

Written assignments - a hard copy must be submitted in class. Failure to submit or fulfill any required component may result in failure of the class, regardless of grades achieved in other assignments.
Assessment Expectations

Grade A: The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well-structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

Grade B: The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

Grade C: The work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

Grade D: The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

Grade F: The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

Grade Conversion

NYU Berlin uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

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<th>Letter</th>
<th>94-100</th>
<th>87-89</th>
<th>77-79</th>
<th>67-69</th>
<th>below 65</th>
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Alternatively, your professor may give your grades in the scale of 0 to 4:

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<th>3.3</th>
<th>3.0</th>
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Attendance Policy

Participation in all classes is essential for your academic success, especially in NYU Berlin’s content courses that, unlike most courses at NYU NY, meet only once per week in a double-session for three hours. Your attendance in both content and language courses is required and will be checked at each class meeting. As soon as it becomes clear that you cannot attend a class, you must inform your professor by e-mail immediately (i.e. before the start of your class). Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies. If you want the reasons for your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please approach NYUB’s Director or Wellness Counselor. Your professor or NYUB's administration may ask you to present a doctor's note or an exceptional permission from the Director or Wellness Counselor.

Unexcused absences affect students' grades: In content courses each unexcused absence (equaling one week's worth of classes) leads to a deduction of 2% of the overall grade and may negatively affect your class participation grade. Three unexcused absences in one course may lead to a Fail in that course. In German Language classes three (consecutive or non-consecutive) unexcused absences (equaling one week's worth of classes) lead to a 2%
deduction of the overall grade. Five unexcused absences in your German language course may lead to a Fail in that course. Furthermore, faculty is also entitled to deduct points for frequent late arrival to class or late arrival back from in-class breaks. Being more than 15 minutes late for class counts as an unexcused absence. Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Exams, tests, deadlines, and oral presentations that are missed due to illness always require a doctor's note as documentation. It is the student's responsibility to produce this doctor's note; until this doctor's note is produced the missed assessment is graded with an F. In content classes, an F in one assignment may lead to failure of the entire class.

**Attendance Rules on Religious Holidays**

Members of any religious group may, without penalty, excuse themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Students who anticipate being absent because of any religious observance should notify the Director or Assistant Director for Academics in advance of the anticipated absence. If examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on the day the student will be absent, the Director or Assistant Director will reschedule a make-up examination or extend the deadline for assignments.

**Late Submission of Work**

(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the instructor or to the Assistant Director for Academics, who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff may also personally accept the work, and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

(3) Unless an extension has been approved (with a doctor's note or by approval of the Director or Assistant Director), work submitted late receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100 point scale for each day it is late.

(4) Without an approved extension, written work submitted more than 5 weekdays following the session date fails and is given a zero.

(5) End of semester essays must be submitted on time.

(6) Students who are late for a written exam have no automatic right to take extra time or to write the exam on another day.

(7) Please remember that university computers do not keep your essays - you must save them elsewhere. Having lost parts of your essay on the university computer is no excuse for a late submission.

**Plagiarism Policy**

The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.
Proper referencing of your sources avoids plagiarism (see as one possible help the NYU library guide to referencing styles: http://nyu.libguides.com/citations).

NYUB takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor. Your instructor may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For a summary of NYU Global's academic policies please see: www.nyu.edu/global/academic-policies

**Required Text(s)**


Kwon, Miwon, One Place after Another: Notes on Site Specificity, October, Vol. 80, Spring 1997.

Laforgue, Jules, Berlin: The City and the Court, 1887. Buy book at St. Georges!

Plato, Allegory of the Cave.

Sonntag, Susan. Against Interpretation, 1966.

Books can be bought at Saint Georges in Wörther Straße 27 near NYUB. Readers can be bought at Sprintout behind Humboldt University (Georgenstraße/Universitätsstraße – S-Bahn-Bogen 190 - please allow five hours between booking and collecting readers).

All other readings will be relayed as a PDF or hard copy.

**Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase)**

None

**Internet Research Guidelines**

To be discussed in class.

**Additional Required Equipment**

Students are responsible to organize any materials on their own that are not provided in class.

**Session 1 – 1 Sept 2015**

Class Introduction
Assignment #1 – Collage a self-portrait as a book/video/essay/sculpture/photo.


Site visit: Modulor store for art materials at Moritzplatz.

Read in class: Kwon, Miwon, One Place after Another: Notes on Site Specificity, October, Vol. 80, Spring 1997.

**Permanent homework:** Always bring all materials you need for your projects and be prepared to work on them!

**Homework #1:** Buy reader and book. Jules Laforgue, *Berlin: The City and the Court*, 1887. Read first chapters till Royal Summer Residences till Theaters. Bring annotated readings for discussion. Design a response as a ‘non-paper’ e.g. object, drawing, poetry, etc.…

Go on a walk in the city and make / bring in an artwork documenting your tour.

Extra-curricular information on openings and shows in Berlin:
http://bpigs.com
http://www.indexberlin.de

**Session 2 – 8 Sept 2015**
Discussion: Bring annotated readings for discussion. Bring a response as a ‘non-paper’ e.g. object, drawing, poetry, etc…

Work on assignment #1.

**Homework #2:** Jules Laforgue, *Berlin: The City and the Court*, 1887. Read chapters Theaters till end of book. Bring annotated readings for discussion. Design a response as a ‘non-paper’ e.g. object, drawing, poetry, etc.…

**Session 3 – 15 Sept 2015**
Discussion: Bring annotated readings for discussion. Bring a response as a ‘non-paper’ e.g. object, drawing, poetry, etc…

Work on assignment #1.

**Homework #3:** Sonntag, Susan. *Against Interpretation*, 1966. Summarize the key arguments in a 1-page response paper and prepare text for discussion.

**Suggested extra-curricular activity:** 17-20 Sept 2015 ABC Art Fair Berlin

**Session 4 – 22 Sept 2015**
Discussion: Sonntag reading and critique assignment #1.
Homework #4: Read Plato, Allegory of the Cave. Sketch a detailed drawing of the cave.

Session 5 – 29 Sept 2015
Introduction assignment #2 – Construct mask and shadow.

Student presentation: Constantin Brancusi
Student presentation: Danh Voh
Student presentation: Frances Stark

**Tutorial:** Cast the hand of your classmate and vice versa. Clay and plaster will be provided in class but you are free to complement the sculpture with other materials.

1*st* step: Preparing the negative form.

Session 6 – 6 Oct 2015
Student presentation: John Stezaker
Student presentation: Rosemarie Trockel

Work on assignment #2.

**Tutorial:** Cast the hand of your classmate and vice versa. Clay and plaster will be provided in class but you are free to complement the sculpture with other materials.

2*nd* step: Reassemble the negative form and prepare for pouring the positive.

Session 7 – 13 Oct 2015
Student presentation: Bruce Nauman
Student presentation: Isa Genzken

Work on assignment #2.

**Tutorial:** Cast the hand of your classmate and vice versa. Clay and plaster will be provided in class but you are free to complement the sculpture with other materials.

3*rd* step: Separate positive from negative form.

Session 8 – Fall Break – No Class

Session 9 – 27 Oct 2015
Critique assignment #2.

Session 10 – 3 Nov 2015
Guest speaker: Dr. Friederike Schuler - *Public figurative murals during the Weimar Republic.*

*Introduction assignment #3 – Berlin Alexanderplatz.*
Rainer Werner Fassbinder, *Berlin Alexanderplatz,* 1*st* episode.

**Homework #5:** Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit (transl. A.V. Miller), *Independence and dependence of self-consciousness: Lordship and Bondage,* 1807.
Prepare text for discussion and a 1-2 page response paper summarizing the key arguments.

**Session 11 – 10 Nov 2015**
Discussion: Hegel.
Work on assignment #3.

**Session 12 – 17 Nov 2015**
Student presentation: Rikrit Tiravanija
Work on assignment #3.

**Session 13 – 24 Nov 2015**
Critique assignment #3.

**Session 14 – 1 Dec 2015**
*Introduction assignment #4 – Free choice of medium and subject matter.*
Work on assignment #4.

**Session 15 – 8 Dec 2015**
Work on assignment #4.
Preparations for open studios.

**11 Dec 2015 – Open Studios Event.**

**Session 16 – 15 Dec 2015**
Class celebration, final critique, review open studios.

**Classroom Etiquette**
No phone use is permitted in class.
You are allowed to listen to music with headphones on, if appropriate.
Be on time – please note NYU policy, page 2.
Always clean up after yourself and keep communal tools in order.

**Required Co-Curricular Activities**
None

**Suggested Co-Curricular Activities**
Open Studios Event

**Your Instructor**
Agnes Lux is an artist living and working in Berlin.