

INTRO TO FIBER ARTS (ACX - 416) - FALL 2020

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SUMMARY

An intensive skills class to cover basics in crochet, knitting, frame-loom weaving, natural dyeing, and hand-sewing. This class is an introduction to a range of techniques associated with fiber arts. Through readings and discussions, students will learn how artists who work with fiber address issues around process and material, as well as ideas around labor, value, sexual politics, and political activism. In addition to hands-on learning, there will be class discussions around reading materials from curators, artists, and academics on various aspects of fiber art.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Skills: Students develop the skills and vocabulary necessary to explore a variety of fiber-based art practices.
- Critical Thinking: Students demonstrate an understanding of the various processes discussed, the differences between them, and can apply them in creative and meaningful ways within their own art practices.
- Cultural Context: Students will learn the history of fiber, craft, and consider the ever shifting relationship between craft and art. They will explore the cultural context of labor, and consider its place in their own work.
- Community/Interdisciplinary Work: Students from different majors will work together in exploring new mediums and how these materials can be used in different ways for projects from all backgrounds.

PREREQUISITES:

None

SCHEDULE

WEEK	IN CLASS	HOMEWORK
1	Go over syllabus & supplies Intros (Craft background, interests) Hand Sewing and intro to Embroidery (Sampler)	Order your supplies! Work on your sampler Consider starting kitchen waste collection for natural dye in your freezer
2	Hand sewing part 2: Embroidery Finishing techniques (hems, seams) Visible & Invisible Mending techniques Go over loom instructions	Work on mending/sewing projects Build loom Reading: The Politics of Craft (Glenn Adamson)
3	History and comparison of Crochet, Knitting, Nalbinding, etc Demos Crochet	Make some crochet chains, random shapes or even a granny square. Try out different stitches like single, double, and triple crochet.
4	Knitting	Do a few inches of garter stitch, and if you feel comfortable, try some others like stockinette & seed stitch!
5	Crochet and knitting workshop continued Individual meetings/office hours	Continue working on knitting and crochet projects. Reading: Zandra Ahl Think about midterm project (due week 8)
6	Weaving part 1: History, technique Start weaving together!	Continue weaving. Finish at least one piece (so that it can be removed from loom) Continue collecting kitchen

		waste (avocado pits, etc) in your freezer.
7	<p>Weaving part 2: Remove pieces from loom Discuss design, materials. How can weaving be used with other mediums?</p> <p>Discuss natural dyeing materials.</p> <p>Midterms next week!!</p>	Have Fabric or Yarn in 100% cotton, silk, wool and dyes for after midterms.
8	MIDTERM critique	Write a 1 paragraph response to your midterm critique. This is a casual response, not a formal essay--just to force you to write down your thoughts about the experience :)
9	Natural Dyeing!	Do something with your dyed fabric: sew, embroider, or weave with it !
10	<p>Drawing to 3D: patternmaking Building forms/shapes</p> <p>Demos, work in class</p>	Make a 3d object. Be ready to describe your process next week (informal presentation)
11	<p>Day before Thanksgiving-- Watch a fiber-related documentary/movie or read a fiber related article/book and tell us about it next week instead of meeting today.</p>	
12	Discuss our 3d objects and processes (patterns vs freeform)	Reading: Grayson Perry.
13	Open work Day	Finals next week!
14	Final critiques	Write a 1 page (double-spaced, no worries) response to the critique. This can include your own critique or your classmate's critiques. Due by email by noon, Sunday Dec 13.

Supply List

Item	Approx. Cost
Yarn (worsted/aran weight or larger recommended--chunky is easier to learn with!)	\$5+
Darning needle (big plastic needle)	\$1
Crochet Hook (Size H or larger recommended)	\$3+
Knitting Needles (Size US10 or larger recommended)	\$3+
Box or tote bag to hold supplies	\$5+
Fabric scissors (always use a coupon at JoAnn's -- Fiskars is a good brand)	\$20
Embroidery floss in a few colors	\$5
Sewing/embroidery needles (any variety pack should be fine)	\$3
Pins (AKA quilter's pins or dressmaker's pins--longer is better)	\$4
Paper and pencil	Free+
Loom materials: Wooden frame, washi tape, & cotton string	\$15
2 yds muslin (for pattern making practice)	\$5
1 yds 100% cotton/wool/silk fabric for dyeing. No polyester/synthetics. Yarn is also acceptable (try to find undyed/bare yarn, or a white/ecru color)	\$5
For natural dyeing, check your kitchen for: black tea, turmeric, avocado pits, onion skins,	Free+
TOTAL COST	~\$75+

RESOURCES:

The Little Knittery- online and open in Los Feliz

Yarn, knitting, crochet & weaving

<https://thelittleknittery.com/>

Spoonflower - online

Print your own custom fabrics - I have printed cotton and the linen blend, and it's super fun!

Just make sure your files are correct, let me know if you have questions.

<https://www.spoonflower.com/>

Dharma Trading Company - online

Undyed fabrics/yarns as well as undyed clothing

<https://www.dharmatrading.com/>

Maiwa - online

Natural dyes and undyed fabrics/yarns

<https://maiwa.com/>

JoAnn Fabrics - online, locations in Glendale, L.A., and elsewhere

Fabric, yarn, thread, needles, etc

ALWAYS BRING COUPONS

There is an app for your phone, or you can get them from the website. You will always be able to get 40-60% off of at least one non-sale items, so use them well!