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Dear students,

Welcome to *Woven Forms: The Textile Studio*!

In this new course, we will explore a wide range of textile cultures, artists, and practices, ranging from the Bauhaus Weaving Workshop in the 1920s to the emergence of Fiber Art in the 1960s to the spectrum of textile art and contemporary practices today. A preliminary syllabus with our weekly sessions is posted below.

Our course is limited to 12 students. If you are interested in taking our class, please fill out this questionnaire ([Word](#) or [PDF](#)) and send it via email to Katarina Burin ([katarinaburin@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:katarinaburin@fas.harvard.edu)) and Laura Frahm ([frahm@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:frahm@fas.harvard.edu)) by Friday, April 11, 2025, 12pm.

We will notify students about the class list on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, by 5pm.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1: Wednesday, September 3

#### Introduction & Course Overview

Discussion of seminar topics & weekly sessions; introduction to weaving studio exercises.

Introductory Reading: Anni Albers, *On Weaving* (1965), selected short chapters.

T. Lux Feininger, *The Weaving Workshop at the Bauhaus Dessau*, 1927.

## PART I: FOUNDATIONS: BAUHAUS WEAVING WORKSHOP

### WEEK 2: Wednesday, September 10

#### ~Pictures Made of Wool~™: Textile Practices at the Early Bauhaus

Weaving Studio: Weaving Exercises: Material Studies and Tactile Charts

Primary Materials: Gunta Stölzl, ~Bauhaus Weaving Workshop~ (1931), László Moholy-Nagy, ~The Material, Sensory Training, and Tactile Exercises~ from *The New Vision* (1938)

Further Reading: Tai Smith, ~Pictures Made of Wool~ from *Bauhaus Weaving Theory* and ~Unknown Weaver: Wall Hanging~ Annie Bourneuf, ~A Speculative Tapestry~

### WEEK 3: Wednesday, September 17

#### Weaving and/as Architecture: Transformations of Bauhaus Textiles

Archival Visit: Bauhaus Weaving Workshop, Textile Samples (Harvard Art Museums)

Weaving Studio: Weaving Exercises: Weaving with Non-Traditional Materials I

Primary Materials: Gertrud Preiswerk, ~Material Studies~ (1927); Anni Albers, ~Work with Material~ (1937)

Further Reading: Juliet Kinchin, ~Textiles and Architecture: Toward a New Unity~ Judith Raum, ~Fabrics

for Walls~ Tai Smith, ~Toward a Modernist Theory of Weaving~ from *Bauhaus Weaving Theory*

### WEEK 4: Wednesday, September 24

#### ~This New World of Textiles~™: Synthetic Fibers and the New Vision

Archival Visit: Otti Berger Papers & Photographs of Textiles (Harvard Art Museums)

Weaving Studio: Weaving Exercises: Weaving with Non-Traditional Materials II

Primary Materials: Otti Berger, ~Fabrics in Space~ (1930)

Further Reading: Tai Smith, ~The Limits of the Optical and the Tactile~ and ~Monumental: Developing a Wall Covering~ Briony Fer, ~Close to the Stuff the World is Made Of~ Esther Cleven, ~Cloth Chemistry~

### WEEK 5: Wednesday, October 1

#### Weaving at Black Mountain College: Anni Albers, Ruth Asawa, Trude Guermonprez

Weaving Studio: Weaving Exercises: Weaving with Non-Traditional Materials III

Primary Materials: Anni Albers, *On Weaving* (1965) and *On Designing* (1962) (excerpts)

Further Reading: Briony Fer, ~Black Mountain College Exercises~ from Anni Albers, Michael Beggs, ~Art, Craft, Design~ and ~Weaving Literacy~ from *Weaving at Black Mountain College*, Jenni Sorkin, ~Weaving~ and Helen Molesworth, ~Imaginary Landscape~ from *Leap Before You Look*:

**\*\* Assignment I: Weaving with Non-Traditional Materials, due on Friday, October 3, 2025 \*\***

Lenore Tawney, Portrait Session, January 1958.

## **PART II: WOVEN FORMS: THE EMERGENCE OF FIBER ART**

### **WEEK 6: Wednesday, October 8**

#### **Lenore Tawney: Woven Forms and the Emergence of Fiber Art**

Weaving Studio: Weaving Exercises: Expanding Woven Forms

Primary Materials: Woven Forms (1963 exhibition catalogue)

Further Reading: Karen Patterson, *Lenore Tawney: Mirror of the Universe* (excerpts), Elissa Auther, "Fiber Art and the Hierarchy of Art and Craft, 1960-80," Jenelle Porter, "The Materialists" from *Fiber Sculpture*

### **WEEK 7: Wednesday, October 15**

#### **Sheila Hicks: Weaving with Ancient Textile Cultures**

Weaving Studio: Weaving Exercises: Expanding Woven Forms

Primary Materials: Sheila Hicks, "My Encounters with Anni Albers"

Further Reading: Karin Campbell, *Sheila Hicks: Material Voices* (excerpts), Arthur Danto, *Sheila Hicks: Weaving as Metaphor* (excerpts), Tai Smith, "Tapestries in Space" from *Fiber Sculpture*

### **WEEK 8: Wednesday, October 22**

#### **Olga de Amaral / Cecilia Vicuña: Fiber Art, Feminism, and Activism**

Weaving Studio: Weaving Exercises: Expanding Woven Forms

Primary Materials: Cecilia Vicuña, "Impossible Weavings"

Further Reading: Julia Bryan-Wilson, *Fray: Art + Textile Politics* (excerpts), Anna Walker and Laura Mott, *Olga de Amaral: To Weave a Rock* (excerpts)

**\*\* Assignment II: Expanding Woven Forms, due on Friday, October 24, 2025 \*\***

Cecilia Vicuña, *Beach Ritual (near Athens)*, 2017. Documenta 14, Ritual Performance.

## **PART III: TEXTILE ART AND CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES**

### **WEEK 9: Wednesday, October 29**

#### **Textile Art and Contemporary Practices I: Leonor Antunes, Judith Raum**

Archival Visit: Harvard Art Museum Collections (TBA)

Weaving Studio: Conceptualizing Final Weaving Project

Course Readings: Leonor Antunes, "Connecting with Anni Albers," João Ribas, *Leonor Antunes: A Seam, a Surface, a Hinge, or a Knot* (excerpts), Judith Raum, *Otti Berger: Weaving for Modernist Architecture* (excerpts)

### **WEEK 10: Wednesday, November 5**

#### **Textile Art and Contemporary Practices II: Clarissa Tossin, Helen Mirra**

Weaving Studio: Conceptualizing Final Weaving Project

Course Readings: Lynne Cooke, "Modernist Histories: Braided, Interlaced, and Aligned," Briony Fer, "Textile Thinking" and Michelle Kuo, "Textility and Technology" from *Woven Histories: Textiles and Modern Abstraction*

## **PART IV: WEAVING WORKSHOPS & TEXTILE STUDIO EXHIBITION**

### **WEEK 11: Wednesday, November 12**

Expanding Woven Forms: Weavings for "The Textile Studio"

Part I: Open Workshop Session

Part II: Workshop Session & Critique (Guest Critic: TBA)

[No readings or text discussions this week.]

### **WEEK 12: Wednesday, November 19**

#### **Expanding Woven Forms: Weavings for "The Textile Studio"**

Part I: Open Workshop Session

Part II: Workshop Session & Critique (Guest Critic: TBA)  
[No readings or text discussions this week.]

**WEEK 13: Wednesday, December 3**

**Final Critiques: Weavings for "The Textile Studio"**

Part I: Final Critique Session I (Guest Critic: TBA)

Part II: Final Critique Session II (Guest Critic: TBA)

[No readings or text discussions this week.]

**\*\* Assignment III: Final Woven Work due for Final Critiques on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 \*\***

**\*\* "The Textile Studio" Exhibition at AFVS Open Studios on Friday, December 5, 2025 \*\***

**\*\* Contributions to Exhibition Catalogue "The Textile Studio" due on TBA. \*\***