

ART 916

FIBERS I

I. Course Description:

An introductory course emphasizing the aesthetic and technical developments in pliable material construction techniques. Weaving and off-loom processes will be included. Two and three dimensional structures created with a variety of media using both traditional and non-traditional approaches may be explored. Studio safety will be emphasized.

II. Prerequisite:

2-D and 3-D Design are strongly recommended, but not required.

III. Credit Hours:

This class is 3 credit hours and meets (6) clock hours per week

IV. Concepts:

- a. The emphasis of this course focuses on developing the skills and aesthetics relating to the different materials and processes used in fiber art as creative medium.
- b. Competencies will include:
 - i. A sensitivity to making selections of appropriate materials, colors, and technologies to successfully complete both functional and expressive projects.
 - ii. The ability to differentiate between loom and non-loom (off-loom) structures.
 - iii. Developing and executing warp calculations and drafting. (Dress a loom.)
 - iv. Defining craftsmanship in both the art and craft application of fibers/pliable materials.
- c. Students will develop a working vocabulary specific to the medium.
- d. Students will understand the safety issues involved in working with pliable materials and techniques for working them.

V. Skills:

It is expected that students should have a familiarity gained through experience and/or an awareness of the following materials and processes. Due to the broad nature of fibers and the limiting nature of available equipment, not all materials or processes may be covered. However, less technical approaches should be explored where possible when equipment limitations prevent instruction. For example, making and using a frame loom if a table or floor loom is not available.

Off-Loom Processes

Felting Wrapping
Twining Coiling
Armatures Assemblage
Papermaking

Loom Processes

Basic Weaving - Tabby
Loom Controlled - Basket weave, Twills, Patterns, Double weaves
Weaver Controlled - Lace, Warp, Wrapping, Brocade, Tapestry, Pile Weaves
Functional Finishes, Edge Finishes, Selvedges, Washing

VI. Critical Analysis:

- a. Class and individual critiques will provide an understanding for the criteria and standards used in assessing performance.
- b. Portfolio reviews, Quizzes, and Examinations.
- c. Note: It is strongly recommended that students use and maintain sketchbooks in this class

VII. Historical Reference:

- a. Students will understand the function of fibers/pliable materials in the historical/cultural context including its use in ceremonies, clothing, shelter and other utilitarian uses.
- b. Students will be able to compare and contrast the role of fibers/pliable materials in an historical and contemporary context.
- c. Students will have an awareness of key artists who have been instrumental in bringing fibers and pliable materials to the forefront as art media.

VIII. Suggested References/Texts:

Weaving: A Handbook of the Fiber Arts, Shirley Held
The Key to Weaving, Mary Black
Weaving, Clara Creager