

DES 599 Weaving Workshop
Spring 2019
Location: Roski at Mateo

Instructor: Penny Collins. MFA
Office Hours: After class by appointment
Contact Info: pecollin@usc.edu

Course description:

One of the oldest forms of craft, with a rich history of utility and expression, weaving is a method of interlacing threads to create a textile form. This studio course explores weaving practices from the nomadic to the contemporary, utilizing traditional and experimental techniques and a variety of tools and materials. The studio format is supported by readings, lectures, critiques and discussions.

Course objectives:

After successfully completing this course, students will have an understanding of weaving in its historical context, and will be familiar with types of looms and experienced in creating a weaving surface by constructing a small portable loom. Students will be able to weave variety of patterns on a multi-harness floor loom, and will be able to apply design principles and incorporate experimental materials into original works. Students will research and use reference material to explore aspects of the cultural history of weaving.

Academic Expectations:

This is a working studio course. Regular attendance is expected.

Attend all classes, care about your work, make progress in the medium, help and cooperate with your classmates, take risks, make mistakes.

Materials:

Basic materials will be provided.

Suggested Reading:

The Shuttle-Craft Book of American Handweaving by Mary Meigs Atwater, Macmillan Publishing Co.

The Art of Weaving by Else Regensteiner, A Schiffer Craft Book

More to come...

Magazines:

Handwoven, Interweave Press, Loveland, CO

Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot, Handweaver's Guild of America, W. Hartford, CT 06107

Outline by Week

Week 1, Jan 11: Introductions, etc. Syllabus – studio project descriptions and research project parameters.

Main topics: Early textile techniques, minimal equipment: twining, basketry, braiding, looping, crocheting, knitting, felting and bark cloth. Weaving without a loom. Early looms: Indigenous and nomadic peoples' looms, development of stationary looms, resurgence of weaving at various points in history, Bauhaus and Arts and Crafts Movement.

Project: Create a fabric using minimal equipment and experimental materials, complete for homework.

Week 2, Jan 18: Non loom projects due -- show and review with particular emphasis on texture, technique, use of materials, and creativity.

Main topics: Review Research Project Guidelines. Example presentation on Bauhaus.

Loom controlled weaving and texture studies a la Anni Albers.

Build small frame looms using canvas stretchers, set up warps and discuss variations possible on a simple loom. Work on texture studies (pencil/paper or computer/typewriter) creating areas of light and shade. Design parameters – horizontal, vertical, angles, curves, representational, abstract, creating texture using paper rubbings etc.

Project: Construction of frame loom and design for a woven “tapestry” piece, complete the design (on paper and to scale, with coloration) for homework.

Week 3 Jan 25: Tapestry designs due -- Show and review, discuss materials and weaving techniques for development.

Demonstrations and practice of frame loom techniques. Practice loom available for all to use before venturing onto individual projects. Techniques for achieving straight lines, curves and angles, scale of yarns, warp face or weft face, empty space, etc.

Review the setup of floor loom/ table loom and demonstrate/discuss using basic weaving drafts, showing threading and tie-up and how those correspond to the draft notations. Color exercises, plain weave and variations, twill weave and variations, lace weaves and pile weaves. Create schedule for in-studio woven samplers. Homework: Work on individual tapestries and floor loom samplers.

Week 4, Feb 1: Review progress on individual tapestries and samplers, and research projects. Provide additional technique demonstrations as needed, on frame loom, table loom, and floor loom.

Discuss collaborative design process and materials for implementation of group project. Work on design of group project.

Homework: Work on research project and continue frame loom tapestry and sampler weaving. Sampler to be completed by week 6.

Week 5, Feb 8: Frame loom tapestry projects due, presentation and critique at the start of class. **Begin presentation of research projects.**

Finalize design and material for group project, prepare the warp using warping frame. Sampler weaving and additional demonstrations.
Homework: Complete sampler weaving.

Week 6, Feb 15: Woven samplers due. Remove from looms and review.
Continue research presentations.

Dress the floor loom with the new warp for our group final project, and begin weaving. Preparations for final meeting and presentations.

Homework: Completion of group project. Additional studio hours to be scheduled during this week in order to complete group project.

Week 7 Feb 22: Final presentation and critique: Portfolio review to include first project, sampler, research project, frame loom project, and group project.

Project	Due Date	Points	% of Grade
Intro: Weaving without a Loom	1/18	20	10
Tapestry (design due 1/25)	2/08	40	20
Floor Loom Sampler	2/15	30	15
Group Project	2/22	40	20
Research Project and Presentation	2/08 – 2/15	40	20
Participation		30	15
Totals		200	100

Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76

C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Assignment Rubrics will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard.

Assignment Submission: Due to the workshop nature of this course and the sharing of equipment, it is important for each student to respect the group by completing and submitting projects on time.

Additional Policies

Projects are spread across many weeks and the development process is important. Due dates are the deadline though, and reviews take place at the beginning of class time. Especially in a 7-week format, any absence or tardiness creates a large gap in learning. Punctuality and attendance are expected.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation,

age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421

studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.