

62-150 A: Introduction to Textile Media

course curriculum designed by [Olivia Robinson](#)

Section A of Media Synthesis & Analysis - Spring 2025

Course Location: Hunt Library, Studio A (106B)

Course Time: Monday and Wednesday, 2-3:50pm

Instructor: Natalya Pinchuk, npinchuk@andrew.cmu.edu

TA: J Bellantoni, jlbellan@andrew.cmu.edu

Instructor Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1-2pm (Sewing Lab, Dye Lab) or by appointment

TA Office Hours: TBD (Sewing Lab, Dye Lab)

Sewing Lab (A4) Assistant Hours: TBD, in Sewing Lab, A4

Class Website: <https://courses.ideate.cmu.edu/62-150/s2025a/>

Facilities Rules: [A4 Sewing Lab](#), [A31 Dye Lab Rules](#)

Welcome to Introduction to Textile Media—a glimpse into the technical, historical and conceptual grounding of this medium. The class covers spinning, weaving, hand and machine sewing, silk screen and block printing on fabric, applique, piece-work quilting, and felting. Technical exploration, complimented by the study of historical precedent and contemporary practice, supports students in exploring textiles as an expressive medium. Course work includes creative projects, technical samplers, and critical feedback. **THIS CLASS REQUIRES A MINIMUM OF 6 HOURS OF WORK OUTSIDE OF CLASS PER WEEK BUT MAY TAKE UP TO 10 HOURS.**

Learning Objectives

Attitude: Become fearless in making. Embrace playing with materials and ideas. Love what you do.

Skills: Construct and manipulate textiles using a variety of techniques (weaving, sewing, surface manipulation, embellishment, piecework, quilting, and patterns).

Reflection and Feedback: Document and reflect upon your process and finished assignments. Articulate material and conceptual choices in discussions. Contribute productively with constructive criticism and positive feedback.

History and Other Makers: Demonstrate an understanding of the history, cultural context, and social implications of textile media. Grow awareness of artists, designers, craftspersons, makers, architects, and others who employ textile techniques. Distinguish and identify a variety of textile structures, materials, processes and traditions.

Assignments and Projects

There are 4 major assignments: 1. **Tapestry Weaving**, 2. **What Matters? Banners and Quilts**, 3. **Final Project** and 4. **Samples**. All assignments are due at the start of the class on the due date indicated, unless otherwise stated. Due dates for each assignment are listed on the course schedule (subject to change). Please communicate with your instructor promptly if you have fallen behind or anticipate falling

behind; do not wait until several days before the deadline to ask for an extension. Students can redo any assignment and resubmit for grading before the final class.

Grading

Projects and Deliverables are graded A-F

Specific point structure, equalling 100 points:

Tapestry Weaving: 30 points

All Assigned Samples, includes Weaving Sample (PASS/FAIL): 20 points

What Matters? Banner: 20 points

Final Project (PASS/FAIL): 10 points

Pinterest, Discussions, Participation, Attendance, Attitude: 20 points

[GRADING RUBRIC can be found here.](#)

PINTEREST, DISCUSSIONS, PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE, ATTITUDE: 20 POINTS

This category includes:

- active participation in the class community
- being present in class activities (not using personal social media during class, not actively texting, not checking news etc)
- stewardship of communal space and resources, participation in clean up, helping peers
- contributing to discussion and critiques; attentive listening
- general demeanor and respect of peers, faculty, and staff
- regular posting of work and research on Pinterest in the requested format and in appropriate folders
- watching of assigned videos outside of class and quizzes
- attendance and on time arrival

All students start with 20 points at the beginning of the semester. Poor participation may result in loss of up to 20 points at the discretion of the instructor. Students will receive an update regarding their standing in this category with each graded project. Students may inquire at any point in the semester in regards to their standing in this category.

Quizzes will be utilized to assess whether students are watching the assigned videos outside of class and retaining the presented information. If a video is assigned as homework, students should assume that there will be a quiz in the following class.

Attendance to all classes and class-related activities is expected. You are responsible for what happens in class whether you're here or not. Check the website to find out what you missed. Organize with your classmates to get class information and materials you have missed. Students are allowed 2 unexcused missed classes. Unexcused late arrivals are strongly discouraged.

Late Arrivals

Please work hard to NOT be late. As is, our classes are already really short for hands on type of learning: 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Expected absences: Within the first week of our course, please look ahead and see if you need to miss class for any excusable reason (religious holidays, CMU-sponsored events, medical or family plans you cannot change etc.) and [email me](#).

Illness: Let me know before class if you are ill and must miss class. I am understanding and accommodating about medical issues when you inform me in a timely and professional manner. If students choose to attend class while displaying symptoms of a respiratory ailment, they are asked to wear an N95 mask to ensure the health and comfort of their peers and the instructor. This practice helps maintain a safe and respectful learning environment for everyone.

If You Have Fallen Behind

Please communicate with your instructor promptly if you have fallen behind or anticipate falling behind; do not wait to communicate that you need help or ask for an extension. Students can redo any assignment and resubmit for grading before the final class.

Mental presence and social media. Physical and virtual presence means nothing if you're "checked out"; your mental presence is paramount. During the instructor's lectures or guest presentations, open laptops and social media are prohibited. You can exist for a few hours without tweeting, facebooking, chatting, texting, and emailing. Any laptop or phone for social media, texting, etc. is banned during lectures, critiques and group discussion, unless specifically allowed/requested by the instructor.

Critique: Your presence and participation is especially important for critiques. Sometimes students who have not completed their projects think that missing class is better than coming empty handed. This is the wrong assumption! Your participation on critique days is essential, regardless of whether or not your project is complete. Critique sessions and conversations help you understand our class standards, expectations, and criteria for good work. Even if your own project is unfinished, you are still expected to contribute productively to the class discussion.

Follow Your Passion

This is a class based on creativity and making. I strongly suggest that you (the creative maker) *make the assignments interesting to you*. Our assignments are starting-points, prompts and propositions.

On Perfection

Not every project you make can or will be a work of brilliance. It's OK. In this class, it is much more important to finish work than to freeze up, because your work isn't perfect. Get it done and then get some sleep. This class is about developing fluency through practice. When you're just learning how to speak a new language, no one expects you to make beautiful poetry. Your ability to explore and experiment is a critical ingredient, which means sometimes your work will not look like what you expected. This is okay and part of learning.

Instructor Commitments

Be accessible. I will hold regularly scheduled office hours each week. You can find those details on the top page of the syllabus. If your academic or job schedule does not allow you to come to my office hours and you are in need of a meeting, please email me so we can set something up.

Quickly respond to emails. Monday – Friday.

Promptly return grades and feedback.

Solicit student feedback. I constantly strive to improve my ability to teach. You should feel free to email me your feedback at any time. I hope that you will provide your candid and constructive comments.

Help to provide necessary accommodations. If you have a disability and have an accommodations letter from the Disability Resources office, I encourage you to discuss your accommodations and needs with me as early in the semester as possible. I will work with you to ensure that accommodations are provided as appropriate. If you suspect that you may have a disability and would benefit from accommodations but are not yet registered with the Office of Disability Resources, I encourage you to contact them at access@andrew.cmu.edu.

Materials

Most of the materials you will use in this course will be provided for you by IDeATe. This includes yarn, muslin and canvas fabric, raw wool, dyes, sewing materials, needles, pins etc. If you need a special material, we may not be able to provide it. For your final project, you might end up procuring some materials yourself that are specific to your ideas.

Materials you must acquire:

1. A journal or paper to take notes and make drawings in
2. Pen, pencil, sharpie
3. Extra materials specific to your projects (but not supplied by IDeATe) as the needs arise

Respect for Diversity

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. I will gladly honor your request to address you by the pronouns and name you specify.

I commit to make individual arrangements to address disabilities or religious needs (e.g. religious events in conflict with class meetings). Please advise me of your needs early in the semester so that I can make appropriate changes to plans and records.

Unfortunately, incidents of bias or discrimination do occur, whether intentional or unintentional. They contribute to creating an unwelcoming environment for individuals and groups at the university. Therefore, the university encourages anyone who experiences or observes unfair or hostile treatment on the basis of identity to speak out for justice and support, within the moment of the incident or after the incident has passed. Anyone can share these experiences using the following resources:

- **Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion:** csdi@andrew.cmu.edu, (412) 268-2150
- **Ethics Reporting Hotline.** Students, faculty, and staff can anonymously file a report by calling 844-587-0793 or visiting cmu.ethicspoint.com.

Please Communicate and Take Care

We are all under a lot of stress. Make sure to move regularly, eat well, and reach out to your support system or me if you need to. We can all benefit from support in times of stress, and this semester is no exception. Please keep an open dialogue with me about ways that I or the course can best support you. I realize this may change throughout the semester.

Take care of yourself. Please do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress.

All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is often helpful.

If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) is here to help: call 412-268-2922 and visit their website at <http://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>. Consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for help getting connected to the support that can help. If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal or in danger of harm to self or others, call someone immediately, day or night:

- **CaPS Counseling: 412-268-2922**
- **Re:solve Crisis Network: 888-796-8226**
- **On campus CMU Police: 412-268-2323**

Summary of CMU Academic Integrity Policies

[Carnegie Mellon University prohibits academic dishonesty](#). This includes plagiarism, and may consist of: submitting the work of someone else as one's own; failing to cite assistance you received; or the failure to properly cite materials or ideas from other sources. Many of these problems can be circumvented if you're clear and generous in giving credit where credit is due. Please read the University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism (link above) carefully to understand the penalties associated with academic dishonesty at Carnegie Mellon University. I reserve the right to determine an appropriate penalty based on the violation of academic dishonesty that occurs. The penalty for plagiarizing may range from failure on the specific plagiarized assignment to failure in the class. Repeat offenses can result in severe penalties including, potentially, expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about this policy and any work you are doing in the course, please feel free to contact the professor(s) for help.

Policies for Creative Projects

We will be learning new skills in designing and constructing using textile media. As makers, it is fully acceptable to use found materials (patterns, images, etc) and to use these materials in creating new works of art/design. When using found materials (patterns, images, etc) in your own work there are two requirements:

- **Attribution.** You must clearly identify where the found material came from and who made it.
- **Transformation.** You must **significantly** transform the materials you are using. You should extend the material, modify it into something new, offer new insight into the concepts underlying the material, etc. Work that uses borrowed materials, images, designs, ideas, etc. without significantly transforming those materials will result in a low grade.

Food Insecurity

If you are worried about affording food or feeling insecure about food, there are resources on campus that can help. Email the CMU Food Pantry Coordinator to schedule an appointment:

Pantry Coordinator

cmu-pantry@eimartinandrew-cmu-edu

412-268-8704 (SLICE office)

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

Students may use artificial intelligence (AI) tools for working with text and images as a tool to improve upon their own efforts and to enhance brainstorming, **NOT to generate initial content**. When generative AI tools are utilized, their use must be appropriately acknowledged and cited. For instance, submitted work, design reviews, and project plan conversations must include digital copies of the starting image/text and the exact prompt used to generate the content as well as the AI's full response.