

Soft Fabrication Micro Course (99-352)

Dates: Saturdays, 10:30am-3:30 pm on January 18, January 25, February 1

Final Project due: February 15, noon

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

Location: Studio A, Hunt Library (the large room on the first floor with the windows overlooking Frew Street)

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

TA: TBD

Class website: <https://courses.ideate.cmu.edu/99-352/s2025/>

Course Description

This course aims to provide hands-on experience and knowledge about the process of working with textiles and soft fabrication techniques, which can be applied across different disciplines. The fabrication skills and concepts that will be covered in this course will be taught from an interdisciplinary approach to merge practices in arts and technology.

Pinterest

All students will be invited to join a Pinterest secret board, created by Fabricating Softly @laughingthreads. The name of the secret board is S25 Soft Fabrication Micro. **Throughout the class, students will pin images of their progress on ALL technical samples and Final Project (including written reflection, documentation and research for their final project) to this Pinterest board under a section titled “Your Full Name”.** Additionally, students are required to pin 5 inspirational images for each skill they are learning.

Technical Samples, Final Projects

This micro is **Pass/Fail**. In order to Pass, students must complete all of the following: be present at the beginning and end of each class, complete all assigned technical samples and final project, share images and information on Pinterest. **Absences from class must be cleared with Natalya ahead of time.**

Sewing Machines

Students will be able to use sewing machines in class. Outside of class, students will be able to borrow the sewing machines through Lending or use sewing machines in Sewing Lab (room A4 in the basement of the Hunt Library). Lending is located in the basement of Hunt Library. Please refer to Lending Room work hours. <https://resources.ideate.cmu.edu/info/hours/>

Room A4, SEWING LAB

Students will also be able to use room A4 in the basement of Hunt Library for the duration of the class and after. Only use materials in boxes that are marked FOR STUDENT USE. Do not use materials and tools in boxes marked FOR INSTRUCTION IN CLASS USE or if the box has a class name on it (examples: Introduction to Textile Media, Kinetic Fabric, Inflatables, Garments). Leave the room and boxes in better condition than you encountered them. **Do not use the industrial sewing machine if you have not been instructed how to use it.** Full Sewing Lab rules are posted on the class website.

Class 1 Hand Sewing Machine Sewing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sewing Sampler: running stitch (basting) long and short, backstitch, blanket stitch, overcast stitch, appliqué (half overcast, half blanket)● hem stitch (slip) 0-3mins https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlHyqT4K-p0&ab_channel=Craftsy● hem whip stitch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njeQxPZgMfM&t=118s&ab_channel=CutesyCrafts● Setting up the machine● Machine samplers: tension sampler, square spiral, circular spiral, doodle with various settings
Class 2 Fabric: Flat to 3-D	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Seam allowance, darts, pattern making● Samples: heart shape form, pouch, cube, darted circle, face mask
Class 3 Felting, Weaving, Knitting, Crochet Smart Textiles + Soft Circuits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wet and Dry Felting● Samples: felted ball, felt sheet, hollow felted 3-d form, dry felting● Light up fabric circuit, diy soft sensors● Sample: light up patch with on/off switch

Due: February 15, noon

- documentation of all technical samples, inspiration, research, and final projects posted in Pinterest and emailed to Natalya
- for the final project students will choose **ONE** of the following:

1. **Proposal Option:** You will create a proposal for a project that utilizes techniques or concepts covered in the class. This project could be for another class or be for personal inquiry.

Examples of project proposals from previous classes may be found at <http://ideate.xsead.cmu.edu/gallery/pools/soft-fabrication-skills-pool-99-352>

Make sure to include:

- sketches and write up of materials
- techniques and concepts used

2. **Skill Investigation Option:** Learn a new textile skill or improve on the one you already know. Create a sample to show what you have learned. This skill could be one that we discussed in class but did not cover in a demo.

Necessary materials may need to be purchased by students. Examples of skill investigation from previous classes may be found at

<http://ideate.xsead.cmu.edu/gallery/pools/soft-fabrication-skills-pool-99-352>

Make sure to include:

- photos of your sample, thoughts on the process
- what resources and guides you used; list of materials used

3. **Zipper Pouch Option (2-4 hours)**

- follow step-by-step video to complete a zipper pouch, video will be made available
- necessary materials to complete this project can be made available

Make sure to include:

- documentation of process and image of completed pouch
- thoughts on the process

4. **Wet Felt Slippers (6-10 hours)**

Follow along a video to create felt slippers:

- felt slippers [part 1](#), felt slippers [part 2](#), felt slippers [part 3](#)
- [felt boots](#)

5. **Animal Head (6-10 hours)**

Use provided videos and patterns to create an animal head trophy out of fabric. Request pattern and links to videos.