

NDL-123-001 — The Fabric of Life January 2010

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Lecture Meeting Time: NHS 222 MTWRF 1:30-3:20

Laboratory Meeting Time: NHS Atrium/Lobby MTWRF 10:30-12:20 or 3:30-5:20
During the laboratory meeting time we will knit.

Course Description:

This course addresses the historical, social, cultural, and practical technique of hand knitting. You will learn to knit and will learn about the historical and international background of hand knitting. You will gain knowledge of the raw materials used in knitting and the preparation, spinning and dyeing of these materials. You will become proficient at knitting and will produce two projects for local charities. Course work will include class participation, reflective writing, short papers, presentations, and knit projects.

Required Materials:

Books: *The Knitter's Handbook* by Eleanor Van Zandt
The Knitting Circle by Ann Hood or *Comfort-A Journey Through Grief* by Ann Hood

Supplies: Needles: 24 inch circular knitting needle, size US 6
16 inch circular knitting needle, size US 10
Yarn: 150 yards of bulky yarn for a scarf

Worsted weight wool that you will dye (more details to come)

On-line Resources:

Moodle: This is where you can find information and handouts for the course.
<http://moodle.gac.edu/>

Ravelry: You will create a free account, browse patterns, track projects, and blog about your experiences in the course on this site.
<http://www.ravelry.com/>

Course Goals:

This course involves:

1. Learning the historical and international background of hand knitting through research and oral presentations.
2. Learning about the raw materials used in hand knitting through field trips, research, and oral presentations.
3. Discussions and reflective writing regarding the social and cultural aspects of knitting based on assigned readings and personal experiences.
4. Active learning through knitting projects some of which you will keep and some of which you will donate to local charities.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Participation and attendance – 40%

Two Oral Reports – 20%

Creative Short Story/Essay – 10%

Journal and Reflective Essay – 10%

Final knitted products – 20%

Participation and Attendance:

Participation and attendance at class lecture and laboratory is important to your understanding, learning, and success in this class. I expect you to attend every lecture and laboratory except for those days on which you have a documented medical or other legitimate emergency. The majority of your grade in this course is based on participation and attendance; therefore, every absence will harm your final grade since you will not have participated fully in the class.

Oral Reports:

In pairs, you will give a 15-minute presentation with 5 minutes of questions on the following topics:

1. The history of knitting.
 - a. You will research knitting in a selected time period, location, or culture and then present what you have learned. Here are some questions to help you get started: Who knits; gender, age, social class, etc.? Why did they knit? What was the culture of knitting during that time? What are the social perceptions of knitting? What was knit? What types of fibers and colors did they use in their knitting? Include pictures and images.
 - b. Topics:
 - i. Origins of Knitting
 - ii. European Knitting – Middle Ages and Knitting Guilds
 - iii. Scandinavian Knitting
 - iv. Knitting in Asia
 - v. Knitting in America – Colonial Knitters
 - vi. Knitting in America – American Revolution
 - vii. Knitting in America – Civil War
 - viii. Knitting in America – World War I
 - ix. Knitting in America – 1920's – 1930's
 - x. Knitting in America – World War II
 - xi. Knitting in America – 1950's – 1980's
 - xii. Knitting in America – 21st century
2. Fibers used in knitting.
 - a. You will research a fiber used in knitting and present what you have learned. Here are some questions to help you get started: Where does the fiber come from? What demographic areas use this fiber; past and present? How do we get this fiber? How is it made into yarn? Is it blended with other fibers? How do you determine the quality of the fiber/yarn? What should you knit with it? Things to be aware of when knitting with this fiber? What is the price of the fiber?
 - i. Sheep: wool
 - ii. Angora Goat: Mohair
 - iii. Cashmere Goat: Cashmere

- iv. Angora Rabbit: Angora
- v. Alpaca
- vi. Bison
- vii. Musk Ox: Qiviut
- viii. Silk
- ix. Cotton
- x. Flax: Linen
- xi. Soy
- xii. Acrylic

Creative Short Story/Essay:

During each of our laboratory meetings one person will read a short story related to knitting from *Knit Lit: Sweaters and Their Stories*, Linda Roghaar and Molly Wolf or other approved source. You will write a creative short story inspired by your knitting experiences. Feel free to add appropriate art work or pictures. All the stories from the class will be compiled into a “book” in a style similar to *Knit Lit*.

Journal and Reflective Essay:

You will keep a daily journal to record your thoughts, ideas, experiences and impressions. Be sure to comment on how these things change over the course of the class.

You will use your journal entries to guide you as you write a reflective essay entitled, “The Fabric of Life.” This paper must be 4-5 pages long (double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman, 1 inch margins). Your essay should integrate the knowledge you gained from the class with your own personal experiences. Here are some questions to help you get started: Learning what you have about the history of knitting, what do you think will be the significance of your learning to knit in this time and place? Based on Ann Hood’s books we learn that people knit for many reasons; why do you knit? As we knit together over the past month, what have you learned about the culture of knitting, about others, and about yourself? How has knitting impacted you?

Academic Honesty and Honor Code:

Every student of Gustavus Adolphus College signs the following statement prior to enrollment and course registration:

‘As a community of scholars, the faculty and students of Gustavus Adolphus College have formulated an academic honesty policy and honor code system, which is printed in the Academic Bulletin and in the Gustavus Guide. As a student at Gustavus Adolphus College, I agree to uphold the honor code. This means that I will abide by the academic honesty policy, and abide by decisions of the joint student/faculty Honor Board.’

The following code will be included on each written assignment:

‘On my honor, I pledge that I have not given, received, nor tolerated others’ use of unauthorized aid in completing this work.’

This code places the responsibility for academic honesty exactly where it should be – with the student. As a student of this college, you have promised to uphold the pledge and to abide by it.

An integral part of the honor code is non-tolerance of violations. Under the honor code you agree to report violations of which you become aware. Failure to do so will constitute an honor code violation in this class.

Cell phones/pagers/other electronics:

As a courtesy to your fellow classmates and instructors, please turn your cell phones, pagers, and any other electronic devices OFF during lecture and laboratory. It is also not acceptable to wear any type of headphones during lecture or laboratory. Use of a prohibited electronic device during lecture will result in dismissal from that lecture.

Services:

Disability Services: If you have a specific physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical, or learning disability and require accommodations, please let me know during the first week of class so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation to the Disability Services Coordinator, Laurie Bickett, in the Advising Center (Johnson Student Union, 933-6286, lbickett@gustavus.edu). All discussions will remain confidential.

Help for Students Whose First Language is not English: The Writing Center has on staff a part-time tutor with professional training in English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Language Learners (ELL) instruction. Students can schedule work with this tutor by contacting the Writing Center.

Lecture Schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1/4 Introduction Knitting Samples</p>	<p>1/5 History of Knitting – Oral Presentations</p>	<p>1/6 History of Knitting – Oral Presentations</p>	<p>1/7 History of Knitting – Oral Presentations</p>	<p>1/8 Woolen Mill Tour Visit the Tangled Skein Leave GAC at 10:30 am Meet in NHS Atrium Read for today: pdf on Yarn on Moodle site under Field Trips</p>
<p>1/11 Fibers used in Knitting – Oral Presentations</p> <p>Useful information posted on Moodle under Fibers used in Knitting</p>	<p>1/12 Fibers used in Knitting – Oral Presentations</p> <p>Useful information posted on Moodle under Fibers used in Knitting</p>	<p>1/13 Visit Icelandic Sheep Farm Leave GAC at 10:30 am Meet in NHS Atrium Read for today: Wellspring Woolen Poppi’s Worsted #1 & #2 under Field Trips</p>	<p>1/14 Paint/Dye Yarn 10:30 am Meet in NHS 301</p>	<p>1/15 Rinse/Dry Yarn 10:30 am Meet in NHS 301</p> <p>Find a pattern for a project of your choice. Bring it with you and we will review it together.</p>
<p>1/18 Art vs. Craft Read the articles posted on Moodle and come to class ready to discuss this topic.</p>	<p>1/19 Visit Cozy Acres Alpacas Leave GAC at 1:30 pm 30% off any purchases</p>	<p>1/20 Lace making demonstration by Barbara Kaiser in class 2:30-3:20</p>	<p>1/21 Deliver hats to children. Leave GAC at 1:30 pm Community Center Building Room #121</p>	<p>1/22 Creative Essay Due</p> <p>Watch Handmade Nation</p>
<p>1/25 Read for today: First ¼ of Ann Hood’s book Why do people knit? – Discussion of Ann Hood’s books Browse through Ravelry (including the Forums). Observe this community of online knitters. Come to class prepared to discuss what interests you about this culture.</p>	<p>1/26 Read for today: Second ¼ of Ann Hood’s book</p> <p>Why do people knit? – Knitting for Charities and Peace</p> <p>Come to class with information on one charity that accepts knit goods.</p>	<p>1/27 Read for today: Third ¼ of Ann Hood’s book</p> <p>Why do people knit? – Spirituality and Mediation</p>	<p>1/28 Read for today: Finish Ann Hood’s book</p> <p>Why do people knit? – Final discussion of Ann Hood’s book</p>	<p>1/29 Reflective Essay Due</p>

Laboratory Schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1/4 Make scarf Learn to cast on, knit, bind off For week 1 read: The Knitter's Handbook p. 7, 9, 15-17, 18 (casting on), 21-24, 28-29	1/5	1/6	1/7	1/8
1/11 Make child's hat Learn to read a pattern, purl, decrease, and circular knitting For week 2 read: The Knitter's Handbook p. 10-14, 25, 52-53, 61-64, 135-139	1/12	1/13	1/14 Select at least 2 afghan squares to knit. Learn new techniques and multicolor knitting. Read appropriate sections for your squares in The Knitter's Handbook	1/15
1/18 Use dyed yarn for a project of your choice. Find a pattern for a project on Ravelry and have me approve it. For week 3 read: The Knitter's Handbook p. 47-51	1/19	1/20	1/21	1/22
1/25	1/26	1/27 Sew afghan squares together and add edging. Read: The Knitter's Handbook p. 226- 227	1/28	1/29