

ARTS 2996.502- Special Topics: Fiber Arts

Fall 2024

Professor: Erin Gould
Monday/ Wednesday 1:30-4 pm
Valencia Business & Technology 106

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Office hours: Mon/ Wed, 9:15- 10:15 am or
by appointment

In this special topics studio course, students will develop skills and cultivate conceptual concerns related to the fibers medium, specifically pertaining to structural forms and embellished or manipulated surfaces of textiles. Traditional and experimental materials will be used to explore such techniques as knitting, felting, sewing, weaving, embroidery, dyeing, piecing, and applique. Critiques and discussions will be informed by lectures, assigned readings, and independent research. Topics will include the historical relevance of fibers, its relationship to ideas such as culture, labor, obsession, identity, decoration, protest, and functionality, and what textiles have to offer within the expanded field of contemporary art. Students will also broaden their understanding of site specificity, performance, interaction, display, and installation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

During this course students will demonstrate ability to:

- Produce creative works that explore, interpret, and/or question the history and contemporary uses of a variety of fiber arts, specifically textiles.
- Develop skill and an understanding of the importance of craftsmanship.
- Make appropriate choices regarding materials and processes in order to reinforce conceptual goals in each project.
- Integrate research into content based reasoning during the development of creative works, taking into consideration global and multi-cultural influences in contemporary fiber art practices.
- Critically analyze personal, contemporary, and historical works of art, as well as the artwork created by peers for both aesthetic and conceptual quality, both verbally and in writing.
- Revise personal creative works in response to constructive critique of personal creative works by instructors and/or students.

MY EXPECTATIONS:

- You complete all assignments promptly.
- You attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time.
- You work, draw, write, read, and think at least 6 hours outside of class time each week.
- You engage seriously with each project and push yourself to grow creatively.
- You actively participate in class discussions and critiques to the best of your abilities.
- You act responsibly in the studio, whether in class or at your home, with regard to your own safety and that of your classmates.

MY COMMITMENTS:

- ★ The classroom should be a place of excitement, curiosity, and joy. I will do my best to keep boredom to a minimum.
- ★ You have chosen to be here, therefore, I serve you and your learning. As your instructor, I will trust and respect you.
- ★ My role is not to convince you of my opinions, but to help you form your own. Art is subjective! I will do my best to never speak over you or make you feel like I do not value your opinions.
- ★ If following your interest in a project or assignment brings your work outside of the parameters of that assignment, your passions come before my guidelines. I will do my best to support your explorations and not penalize you for being creative.
- ★ I will never ask you to compete against one another. There is no limit to how many As or Bs will be given, and differences of opinions are encouraged (as long as we respect and support each other).
- ★ While it is important for you to learn the vocabulary of art and art making, I will never penalize the use of common language or references to popular culture. Art is made in the world, not above it.
- ★ I will never force anyone to participate in ways that make them uncomfortable. I will do my best to make space and time for everyone to contribute in whatever way they need.
- ★ I will never judge or criticize you for ways that you differ from me, whether that be race, gender, sexuality, religion, nationality, class, politics, or culture. I will do my best to not only respect, but encourage you to explore, share, and express any differences in your life.
- ★ I am always learning and trying to be a better teacher. If you ever want to share with me any ways that I could make this learning experience better for you, I will greet that with gratitude!

STUDIO PROJECT OVERVIEW (see project sheets for details)

project one <i>Embroidery-- Text/ pattern</i> Critique: 9/9	Using a combination of embroidery and other surface embellishment techniques demonstrated in class, create a design incorporating at least one piece of text and at least one pattern that communicates a message.
project two <i>Weaving-- Mini loom and experimental weaving</i> Critique: 9/25	Construct a "mini loom" and create a weaving, incorporating at least one "unexpected" material.
project three <i>Sewing-- Found fabric sculpture</i> Critique: 10/21	Using hand and machine sewing techniques, each student will make an in-the-round fabric sculpture out of at least one repurposed textile.
project four <i>Tapestry-- Autobiography</i> Critique: 11/13	Combining at least 3 different techniques from class or their own independent research, each student will create a wall hanging textile work that shares their personal "autobiography."
project five <i>Wearable Sculpture-- Disguise</i> Critique: 12/4	In this final project, students will consider their personal identity and how they either express or hide parts of themselves by creating a wearable textile artwork that they will wear to "disguise" themselves, either literally or metaphorically, and document themselves wearing it.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Studio Work Sessions and Preparation

- As a studio course, you are expected to work productively and diligently throughout the semester in the classroom. This requires a good amount of planning outside of class to gather materials and tools.
- Texting and the use of social media must be kept to a minimum during class. Cell phones may be used for research and listening to music on work days if they don't interfere with your work.
- Consider the safety of yourself and others around you. Always come to class with work clothes, including closed-toed shoes, as well as gloves and eye protection when appropriate. Take precaution with sharp blades, hot guns, installation, etc. Keep your workspace tidy by placing away any food, electronics, or backpacks that may cause or be damaged.
- Clean up after yourself. There is room for papers and flat projects within our flat file drawer. You may claim a storage cubby in the classroom to store supplies and mid-size projects. Storing large projects in the classroom must be kept to a minimum since other classes share the space.

Attendance

- Attendance is mandatory, especially as lectures and critiques cannot be repeated. It is your responsibility to seek any material you miss, downloading lecture slides and assignment sheets and coming to office hours as needed.
- You will be allowed three excused absences for the semester. In order for an absence to be considered as excused, you must email or speak with me about it before the class.
- If you must quarantine due to illness, you must talk to me about how you can participate virtually.
- I reserve the right to drop any student who has more than three absences, which has the potential to affect scholarships. If you know of obligations or circumstances that may affect your attendance, contact me at the beginning of the semester to see if special arrangements are possible.
- Class sessions marked as work days spent without materials will be marked as absences. You must come prepared to class.

Class Participation

- Participation in lectures, reading discussions, and critiques is an essential part of the learning experience, both for you as an individual, and for your peers. If discussion in a group setting is challenging for you, talk to Erin about other participation strategies.
- In group critique, you will present completed projects to the class. Please arrive early if your project needs special installation. If using electronics, be sure to test them the session prior to critique. While the format of each critique may vary, it is essential that all students respectfully engage with classmates' work.
- I will do my best to create a safe academic environment for all students. I ask that you join me in conversation that conveys respect for people of all ages, ability, national origin, race, religion, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.

Readings

There are three readings that will be completed across the semester. Each reading will include a written response that will be submitted via Canvas and an in-class reading discussion. You may want to print out readings or bring reading notes to class on discussion days.

Sketchbook

Be sure your sketchbook cover is clearly labeled with your name. It is a place to compile lecture notes, project ideas, information, and images that inspire you.

Short Artist Presentation

Each student will present a brief image presentation on a contemporary artist using textiles in their practice. The presentation should include 20 images, a short biography, a bibliography, and a discussion of the techniques and processes utilized by this artist.

Digital Portfolio

At the end of the semester, you will compile a digital portfolio of the artwork that you completed during this course. Throughout the semester, you must document your projects, as many will not last beyond the critique period. 2D work and large sculptural pieces can be photographed or scanned. Video, web or performances can be represented with stills and/or clips. You can take photos with your phone or with cameras made available through me. On 12/2, you and the instructor will go over a draft of your portfolio to make sure it includes the following:

- o two photographs of each assignment 1 - 5 (10 jpegs)
- o scans of two strong sketchbook pages (2 jpegs)
- o a corresponding image list including your name, file names, title, medium and date for each image (1 pdf)

These 12 images and image list document should be in a folder on a USB drive due on 12/9.

Course reflection statement

Each student will write a short reflection paper due on the last day of class. This paper should be 1-2 pages, double spaced, 12 point font, and submitted via Canvas. Students will reflect upon what they personally learned in the course, what they struggled with, and which, if any, aspects of the course they will continue to utilize in their personal artistic practice.

Materials

Materials will vary project to project, and with basic materials being supplied for most projects. Responsibility for paying for other materials for your work falls to each student, and that amount will vary dramatically depending on your personal explorations. Be creative to keep costs low if that is a priority for you. Students are encouraged to share resources, use free materials and recycle whenever possible.

Locker/ Cubby Policy:

Lockers and Cubbies are available for your material and tool storage. Locker/Cubby use is contingent upon enrollment in a Fine Arts class. Claim a locker/cubby by labeling it with your name, semester, and year. For lockers you must provide your own lock. All lockers/cubbies must be cleaned out at the end of each semester. Failure to do so will mean the lock will be cut and belongings removed.*

*If you are taking an art class the following semester and need to store materials over break, reach out to your professor or lab tech and we will do our best to make accommodations.

GRADING

Projects will be evaluated on the quality of following criteria:

Execution	Prompt completion of the project based on a firm understanding of the concept, discussions, and materials.
Investment	The research, effort, and research you have put into the project.
Presentation	The strength of your personal ideas and your commitment to expressing them.
Growth	Personal exploration, innovation, and improvement.
Statement	Your ability to articulate your process, reflect and make connections in writing. <i>Projects will not be graded without the written statement.</i>

Deadlines: Because of the collective aspect of the critique, it is mandatory that your project is presented on time, so that the critique covers the widest possible breadth of work. Late projects may be accepted up to one week after their due date, with the understanding that you lose 10% of the project grade (making B+ the highest possible grade for any late project). Grades will be posted on UNM Canvas throughout the semester. Please come to office hours or make an appointment with me if you would like to discuss any grade given.

Extra credit: It is possible to receive up to an additional 5% on your final grade by submitting a copy of a scholarship or exhibit application or by attending select art events and submitting a one-page write up for 1% extra credit each.

Your FINAL grade will be calculated as follows:

Art Projects:

10%	Projects 1 and 2 (5% each)
10%	Project 3
30%	Projects 4 and 5 (15% each)

Course work:

10%	Artist Presentation
15%	Reading responses (5% each)
5%	Sketchbook
5%	Digital Portfolio
5%	Final reflection paper

Participation:

5%	Artistic development and in-class work habits
<u>5%</u>	Participation and Group Discussion
100%	

Grades will be allocated as follows:

A-- Student produces excellent work, demonstrating outstanding commitment and ambition, while thoroughly engaging in class discussions and critiques.

B-- Student produces very good work, demonstrating commitment and ambition, while engaging in class discussions and critiques.

C-- Student produces satisfactory work, demonstrating some commitment and ambition, while engaging somewhat in class discussions and critiques.

D-- Student's work barely meets requirements, with little commitment or ambition, and fails to participate in class discussions and critiques.

F-- Student fails to meet all requirements.

Disclaimer:

In this class, I reserve the right to show a broad range of course materials. Should you at any time in the course of the class feel offended or uncomfortable about something you have seen or heard, we would appreciate you staying and voicing your opinions within the class dialogue. If you feel that you cannot stay, remove yourself from the classroom as discreetly as possible. You may be asked to report on your response.

Student Behavior:

I am committed to building with you a positive classroom environment in which everyone can learn. I reserve the right to intervene and enforce standards of respectful behavior when classroom conduct is inconsistent with University expectations and our classroom community agreements. Interventions and enforcement may include but are not limited to required meetings to discuss classroom expectations, written notification of expectations, and/or removal from a class meeting. Removal from a class meeting will result in an unexcused absence. The University of New Mexico ensures freedom of academic inquiry, free expression and open debate, and a respectful campus through adherence to the following policies: D75: Classroom Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, University Policy 2240 – Respectful Campus, University Policy 2210 – Campus Violence.

Accommodation Statement:

UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone at 505-277-3506. The UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at sjclawson@unm.edu.

Title IX:

The University of New Mexico and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and providing an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. The University's programs and activities, including the classroom, should always provide a space of mutual respect, kindness, and support without fear of harassment, violence, or discrimination. Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of assigned sex at birth, sex characteristics, pregnancy and pregnancy related conditions, sexual orientation and gender identity. If you have encountered any form of discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. You can access the confidential resources available on campus at the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (<https://loborespect.unm.edu>), the Women's Resource

Center (<https://women.unm.edu>), and the LGBTQ Resource Center (<https://lgbtqrc.unm.edu>). If you speak with an instructor (including a TA or a GA) regarding an incident connected to discrimination on the basis of sex, they must notify UNM's Title IX Coordinator that you shared an experience relating to Title IX, even if you ask the instructor not to disclose it. The Title IX Coordinator is available to assist you in understanding your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct and reporting, please see <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html> and CEEO's website.

If you are pregnant or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition, you may contact UNM's Office of Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity at ceo@unm.edu. The CEEO staff will provide you with access to available resources and supportive measures and assist you in understanding your rights.

Support for Undocumented Students

As an educator, I fully support the rights of undocumented students to an education and to live free from the fear of deportation. I pledge that I will not disclose the immigration status of any student who shares this information with me unless required by a judicial warrant, and I will work with students who require immigration-related accommodations.

Academic Integrity Statement

The University of New Mexico believes that academic honesty is a foundation principle for personal and academic development. All University policies regarding academic honesty apply to this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or copying, plagiarism (claiming credit for the words or works of another from any type of source such as print, Internet or electronic database, or failing to cite the source), fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. The University's full statement on academic honesty and the consequences for failure to comply is available in the college catalog and in the *Pathfinder*.

Student Grievance Procedure

<https://pathfinder.unm.edu/campus-policies/student-grievance-procedure.html>

It is your responsibility to be familiar with the full Grievance Procedure. If you have a dispute with an instructor, follow these steps, in this order within four weeks of the original issue.

1. Talk to the Instructor
2. Talk to the Chair of the Department
3. Talk to the Dean of the College

Connecting to Campus and Finding Support

UNM has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including:

- opportunities to get involved (<https://valencia.unm.edu/students/index.html>),
- mental health resources (<https://mentalhealth.unm.edu/>),
- academic support such as tutoring (<https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/learning-commons/index.html>),

-resource centers for people like you

(<https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/pasos/pasos-resource-center/index.html>) ,

-free food at Valencia Campus Food Pantry

(<https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/pasos/pasos-resource-center/campus-food-pantry.html>),

- and jobs on campus

(<https://valencia.unm.edu/students/financial-aid/student-employment.html>).

Your advisor, staff at the resource centers

(<https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/pasos/pasos-resource-center/index.html>)

and Academic Affairs Office

(<https://valencia.unm.edu/academics/academic-affairs/index.html>), and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.

Wellness

If you do need to stay home due to illness or are experiencing a wellness challenge, please take advantage of the resources below. You can communicate with me at elgould@unm.edu; I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. Let me, an advisor, or another UNM staff member know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources. UNM is a mask friendly, but not a mask required, community. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not come to class.

Course Schedule

**This calendar may be adjusted as necessary and updated on Canvas*

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>In Class</i>	<i>Due</i>
1	Mon 8/19	Introductions, syllabus, discussion, classroom contract	
1	Wed 8/21	Introduce Embroidery project, demo	
2	Mon 8/28	Embroidery demo, work time	
2	Wed 8/28	Applique and beading demo, work time	
3	Mon 9/2	Labor day! No class!	
3	Wed 9/4	Work day	
4	Mon 9/9	CRITIQUE	<i>Embroidery artwork due</i>
4	Wed 9/11	Introduce weaving project	
5	Mon 9/16	Reading Discussion, loom making demo	<i>Reading Response due</i>
5	Wed 9/18	Work day	

6	Mon 9/23	Workday	
6	Wed 9/25	CRITIQUE	<i>Weaving artwork due</i>
7	Mon 9/30	Introduce found fabric sculpture project	
7	Wed 10/2	Hand sewing and sewing machine demo, work time	
8	Mon 10/7	Dyeing demo, work time	
8	Wed 10/9	Work day, mini critiques	<i>Project drafts</i>
9	Mon 10/14	Reading Discussion, work time	<i>Reading Response due</i>
9	Wed 10/16	Work day	
10	Mon 10/21	CRITIQUE	<i>Fabric artwork due</i>
10	Wed 10/23	Introduce Tapestry Project	
11	Mon 10/28	Crochet demo	
11	Wed 10/30	Felting demo	
12	Mon 11/4	ARTIST PRESENTATIONS	<i>Artist presentations and bibliography due</i>
12	Wed 11/6	Workday, mini critiques	<i>Project drafts</i>
13	Mon 11/11	Workday	
13	Wed 11/13	CRITIQUE	<i>Tapestry project due</i>
14	Mon 11/18	Introduce Disguise Project	
14	Wed 11/20	Reading Discussion	<i>Reading response due via Canvas</i>
15	Mon 11/25	Work day	
15	Wed 11/27	Work day, mini critiques	<i>Project drafts</i>
16	Mon 12/2	Work day, go over digital portfolio drafts	<i>Digital portfolio draft</i>
16	Wed 12/4	CRITIQUE	<i>Disguise artwork and documentation; sketchbooks due</i>
17	Mon 12/9	Last day of class! Discussion, digital portfolios, return sketchbooks	<i>Digital portfolio and course reflection statement due</i>
17	Wed 12/11	No class! Submit any outstanding work	