Ontario Handweavers and Spinners

Frances Forstner Home Study Course/Weaving Certificate Course

Consists of 18 Units

Unit 1: Basic Weaves
Unit leader: Bridget Lewis

Objectives: Student will be able to weave and draft 14 weave structures based on plain weaves and twills. Student will become familiar with the 12 basic colours in the colour wheel and will create original fabrics based on the above.

Content: a) 14 weave structures using 12 hues of the colour wheel as selected by the student including solid with pick and pick to introduce new colours.
   b) Originals - combine parts of the 14 weaves to create three original weaves to give the following effects:
      1) Colour effect
      2) Weave effect - pattern
      3) Weave effect - texture
   c) Characteristics of wool.

Unit 2: Colour and Design
Unit leader: Esther Grav

Objectives: Student will be able to understand and use colour theory; to recognize basic principles of design as applied to weaving; and to draw inspiration for the use of colour from natural objects, photographs, etc.

Content: Exercises showing use and understanding of:
   a) Colour: theory, terminology, contrasts, gray scales
   b) Design: principles of design, elements of design, designing stripes

Unit 3: Finger Manipulated Lace Weaves
Unit leader: Diane Woods

Objectives: Student will be able to produce finger manipulated lace weaves. Students will also design and weave a transparency applying the basic principle of positive-negative design.

Content: a) Samples and original variations of finger manipulated lace weaves including Leno, Mexican Lace, Spanish Lace, Brooks Bouquet, and Danish Medallion.
   b) Wall hanging in finger manipulated techniques
   c) Transparency weaving
   d) Characteristics of cotton and linen
Unit 4: Tapestry

Unit leader: Line Dufour

Objectives: Student will be able to demonstrate basic tapestry techniques by weaving a sampler and completing an original tapestry. Student will gain an appreciation of designing for architectural spaces.

Content:  
a) Making a cartoon  
b) Warping a frame loom  
c) Tapestry weaving techniques  
d) Finishing and hanging devices  
e) Colour and design applied to tapestry  
f) Designing for architectural spaces

Unit 5: Block Weaves

Unit leader: Susi Reinink

Objectives: Student will be familiar with the theory of block weaves and weaving methods.

Content:  
a) Profile drafting and block design  
b) Theory of block weaves based on draft units and including traditional block weaves such as Monk = s Belt, M = s & O = s, Crackle, Overshot and Huck  
c) Weaving methods including no tabby, opposites, Boundweave, Swivel, Petit Point, Honeycomb, etc.

Unit 6: Rug Weaves

Unit leader: Pat Zannier

Objectives: Student will be able to execute various rug techniques with appropriate finishes.

Content:  
a) Equipment and weaving techniques  
b) Design as applied to rugs  
c) Weave structures: flatweaves, pile weaves, Kilim, Soumak  
d) Edge and finishing techniques
Unit 7: Checks and Plaids  
**Unit leader:** Pat Zannier

**Objectives:** Student will be familiar with the definition of checks and plaids (including tartans) and be able to design original fabrics using checks and plaids.

**Content:**
- a) Definitions - true and false checks, balanced, unbalanced, false plaids, tartans
- b) Designing with checks and plaids
- c) Loom types, warp preparation and warping methods.

Unit 8: Colour and Weave  
**Unit leader:** Susi Reinink

**Objectives:** Student will be able to draft weave patterns based on colour placement of warp and weft rather than weave structure.

**Content:** Colour and weave sampler to illustrate:
- a) Log cabin and other colour and weave effects including the treadling variations
- b) Use of colour to change the appearance of fabric, e.g. equal value colours, complimentary colours, warm and cool colours.
- c) Characteristics and designing of Shadow Weave

Unit 9: Fabric Design Sampler  
**Unit leader:** Esther Grav

**Objectives:** Student will be able to design a warp using a variety of yarns requiring sleying adjustments.

**Content:**
- a) Design sampler using three different threadings to allow comparison of treadlings, colour harmonies, mixed warps and colour uses.
- b) Warp reelings to explore colours and sett requirements for the sampler warp
- c) Characteristics of silk
Unit 10: Fabric to Fashion  
Unit leader: Esther Grav  
**Objectives:** Student will be able to design and weave co-ordinating fashion fabrics and present them to a client.  
**Content:**  
a) Construction of a garment from an idea to the finished product  
b) Marketing of fashion fabrics and presentation to a client

Unit 11: Four Shaft Double Weave  
Unit leader: Susi Reinink  
**Objectives:** Student will understand the theory and structure of four shaft double cloth including double weave pick up (Finn Weave).  
**Content:**  
a) Drafting of basic double weave construction  
b) Double weave techniques - separate edges, pockets (horizontal and vertical,), tubes, stuffing, exchanging layers, tucks and pick up  
c) Colour and design effects in double weave (polychrome, striped warps)

Unit 12: Fabric for Interiors  
Unit leader: Pat Zannier  
**Objectives:** Student will be able to design and weave fabrics suitable for interiors and present them to a client.  
**Content:**  
a) Design fabrics for interiors from the idea to the finished product  
b) Marketing of fabrics for interiors and presentation to a client.
Unit 13: Eight Shaft Weaves  
**Unit leader: Ingrid Boesel**

**Objectives:** Student will understand the theory of weave structures based on more than four shafts and be able to design original fabrics for eight shafts.

**Content:**
- a) Twills - flat, steep, undulating, broken, variations, advancing, network, block
- b) Satin
- c) Crepe

Unit 14: Contemporary Fibre Art and Public Relations  
**Leader: Susi Reinink**

**Objectives:** Student will become familiar with major fibre artists and their work. Students will be able to present themselves and their work in a professional manner in all areas.

**Content:**
- a) Contemporary fibre artists
- b) Portfolios, presentation, professionalism
- c) Marketing your work
- d) Setting up an exhibition

Unit 15: Eight Shaft Double Weave  
**Unit leader: Pat Zannier**

**Objectives:** Student will be able to design, draft and weave multishaft double cloth and have a basic understanding of Backed Cloth and Pique.

**Content:**
- a) Theory of multishaft double weave including stitchers, stuffers and colour effects
- b) Techniques of switching layers, four layers to open flat, stitching layers together, combining two different weaves in two layers
- c) Theory of:
  1. Backed fabrics - risers, sinkers, ratio of face to back
  2. Pique - plain, waved, figured
Unit 16: Unit Weaves

Unit leader: Ingrid Boesel

Objectives: Student will be able to draft, design and weave a variety of unit weaves.

Content:

a) Six block Summer and Winter - design, draft and weave samples.

b) Other multishaft weaves: Atwater-Bronson, Half Satin, Double Two-tie and Turned Twill Blocks.

Unit 17: Fabric Analysis

Unit leader: Susi Reinink

Objectives: Student will be able to analyze any given weave structure and be able to modify and turn a draft. Student will be able to recognize various yarn structures and understand their characteristics. Student will be encouraged in the production of one-of-a-kind items by using decorative finishes and other embellishments.

Content:

a) Weave structure analysis

b) Recreation of cloth with variations

c) Modification and turning of drafts

d) Embellishments and fabric finishing

Unit 18: Research Papers, Presentation, Portfolio and Exhibition

Susi Reinink

Objectives: Student will receive necessary information to submit an In-Depth Study Proposal. Students will present their work in a professional manner in an exhibition.

Content:

a) Research papers

b) Student presentation and portfolio (binder, slides, woven pieces)

c) Exhibition

Compiled by Susi Reinink, 1997
Upated by Diane Woods, 2009