



The City, the River, the Sacred

CLTR 280: Culture in Practice

Artisanal Apprenticeship (Theory)

Course Description

India has a rich tradition of textile art which has evolved in various forms in different regions since time immemorial. These forms have their origin in the Indian households where they were developed according to the need and available material. A detailed study of Indian textiles shows their passage from household to general market production, and finally into the international arena. On the basis of the technique used for production, Indian textiles may be divided into four forms: woven, dyed, printed and embroidered fabrics.

We will be giving a brief account of the historical background of textile manufacture in India with special reference to the city of Varanasi, as well as detailed elaboration of techniques and procedures.

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding the background, nature and importance of Indian Textiles.
- Understanding the influence of regional, cultural, religious and socio-economic factors on the production of Indian Textiles.
- Identifying the area and regions through the motifs, designs and techniques.
- Getting aware of the techniques procedures, designs and motifs of through practical demonstration and visit to production centers.

Course Syllabus

Session 01-11

Brief History of Indian textiles

Reading: Zahit, S. (1996). *Textile Art of India*. S Francisco: Chronicle Books, pp. 309-315.

Session 02-11

Different type of fibers (cotton, wool and silk), their characteristics and some notes on their production process

Reading: Kadolph,J. Sara & Langford, Langford, L. Anna.(1998).*Textiles*. Eight Edition, New Jersey, pp.32-42, 49-66.

Session 03-11 Techniques of Indian textiles: weaving

Reading: Banerjee,N.N.(1982),*Weaving Mechanism: Volume I*, Calcutta, pp. 3-12; Jayakar, P. (1995). *Naksha Bandhas of Banaras*. In Brijpal Das Commemoration Volume, *Smrti* (pp. 140-147). Varanasi: Brijpal Das – Rama Devi Foundation.

Session 04-11 Techniques of textile decoration: dyeing

Reading: Gillow, John & Barnard, Nicholas.(1994).*Traditional Indian Textiles*, pp. 14-16, 33-35, 38-39.

Session 05-11 Techniques of textile decoration: printing and painting

Reading: Gillow, John & Barnard, Nicholas.(1994).*Traditional Indian Textiles*,pp.39-40. Hatanka,Kokyo.(1993),*Textile Arts of India*,pp.316-322.

Session 06-11 Techniques of textile decoration: embroidery

Reading: Hatanka,Kokyo.(1993),*Textile Arts of India*, pp.335-342.

Session 07 and 08-11 Visit to textile production center in Varanasi

Session 09-11 In-class test (contents classes 1-6)

Session 10-11 Textile manufacturing in Varanasi: historical background

Reading: Krishna, R.A. (1995), *Banaras Textiles, Historical Perspective*. In Brijpal Das Commemoration Volume, *Smrti* (pp. 126-139). Varanasi: Brijpal Das – Rama Devi Foundation.

11-11 Textiles of Varanasi

Reading: Lari, Tarannum Fatima (2010), *Textiles of Banaras: Yesterday and Today*, Varanasi: Indica Books, pp. 32-49.

Evaluation

Grades are based on participation and effort in class, individual progress and written assignments and reports.

Active class participation*	20%
On-site visit report (visit to production center in Varanasi)	30%
In-class test	50%

*Evaluation based on attendance record, punctuality, concentration, attitude/effort

Theory course evaluation will comprise **40%** of the Culture in Practice course final grade.

Course Requirements

The students are required to prepare the assigned readings for the theory classes and able to discuss the topic under consideration in the classroom.

Reading material

A set of photocopy material will be provided as basic reading for each topic at the beginning of the course.

Grading

Alliance programs utilize the follow standard grading policy well accepted by most US institutions.

Excellent	A	93-100%	Good	B+	87-89%	Acceptable	C+	77-79%
	A-	90-92%		B	83-86%		C	73-76%
				B-	80-82%		C-	70-72%
						Unsatisfactory	D+	67-69%
							D	63-66%
							D-	60-62%
						Failing	F	<60%

Course Policies

Exams and Assignments

Students are required to take all regularly scheduled exams in courses for which they are registered, and to submit all assignments on time. Any compelling academic, personal, or medical reason that might justify a rescheduled exam or assignment must be brought up to both the Resident Director and program faculty. Failure to take scheduled exams or submit the requisite assignments for a course will adversely affect your grade as per the stated grading criteria for each course.

Classroom Conduct

Student punctuality is extremely important in China and India. Please do not be late for classes or other activities, as it is considered impolite to do so. It is improper to eat in class, to engage in other activities such as texting, or to slump or nap. Students are expected to be alert and engaged as a sign of respect for their professors.

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. It is essential that the students participate fully in the coursework

and all required academic activities. Authorized absences may only be approved by the Resident Director, and students are expected to make up any missed work. Unauthorized absences will adversely affect a student's grades.