

SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SWE07505 TAPESTRY WEAVING – THE BASICS

Tutor: PHILIP SANDERSON

Dates: WEEKEND FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER – SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

This course will examine the basic process of woven tapestry. The main technique will be flat woven tapestry with related techniques such as wrapping, knotting and tufting.

After setting up the warps we begin a detailed examination of the process of tapestry weaving as a way of understanding how the materials work together to create a woven surface. You can select a simple colour scheme for your tapestry, this will also enable you to familiarise yourself with the process of combining colour and technique to create the right look for further weaving projects.

Initially we will begin with traditional materials of a cotton warp with woollen weft, once you are familiar with the basic principles of weaving you will be able to use different yarns in the weft and are welcome to bring any yarns that you specially wish to use.

Topics covered include:

- Setting up a simple frame, how to put on the warp ready for weaving.
- Construction of the woven surface, warp/weft thicknesses.
- Basic techniques: creating shapes, lines, blending and shading.
- Consideration of technical aspects, warp setting, weft, cartoon production, use of specific materials and techniques.

Enjoy demonstrations of techniques at various stages of the course. You will work individually, with a group evaluation at the end of the course.

By the end of the course you will also be able to begin to look at ways of developing your own personal language within the medium; the samples produced are intended to be used as a future reference for when working independently.

LEVEL: BEGINNERS

Starting points. For those with little or no experience who want to go back to basics and would like a structured introduction to a subject.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Philip Sanderson is Master Weaver at the West Dean Tapestry Studio and Associate Tutor across West Dean's Visual Arts Programme. Commissions include designs for two tapestries for the Palace of Westminster.

TIMETABLE:

Arrival day: Friday 8 December

From 4.00pm	Arrival for residential students
6.45pm	Non-residential students please arrive by 6.45pm for welcome chat and dinner
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	First teaching session – attendance is an essential part of the course. The first evening session will be an introduction to tapestry and the stages that will be covered during the course – illustrated with examples of work. It is also important that students have put on their first warp in readiness for the next day.

Other days: Saturday 9 December

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Evening working: workshops are available until 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been discussed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Sunday 10 December

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes
3.00pm	Classes finish
3.30pm	Tea then departure

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm.

For any materials you need to purchase from the shop, we suggest you do so during the first morning of your course, after having discussed with your tutor.

Materials included in the course fee:

The cost of warp yarn and weft yarn for sampling supplied is included.

Available from the Shop:

One or two bobbins

Two G-clamps**

Scissors

Warp yarn

** These may also be borrowed during the course and purchased at the end of the course if you wish to take it home, they cost around £14.

Materials which the students should bring with them:

Any yarns/materials you would like to experiment with

A notebook and pencil

A good pair of scissors

Any other weaving tools you have and wish to bring (bobbins etc).

Small weaving frames are available for use.

There will also be an opportunity to purchase yarn from a specialist tapestry yarn supplier who will visit during the course, they have a range of beautiful colours.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.