

English 3350: Text and Textile: Exploring Creativity

Fall Semester 2014

Tuesday and Thursday: 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.
Annex 2 and EH 403

Instructor: Dr. Judy Elsley
Office: EH 426
Office Phone 626-6801
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

To Buy:

- *The Creative Habit : Learn it and Use it For Life.* Twyla Tharp. Simon and Schuster Paperbacks. ISBN: 0-7432-3527-4
- *In Brief: Short Takes on the Personal.* Judith Kitchen and Mary Paumier Jones, eds. WW Norton. ISBN: 0-393-31907-5
- Various supplies, such as fabric, and a box for organizing your work. (Wait to buy these)

Class Purpose:

This is a class about developing a sense of confidence about your creativity through the parallel activities of writing and dyeing fabric. Why dye fabric? Because the process of dyeing fabric is similar to making texts, starting with white cloth or a blank screen, then adding and deleting until we've shaped the text(ile) to express what we want to say. However, text and textile are also different enough that dyeing fabric will give us a new perspective on our creativity as writers. This class invites you to explore and improve your writing as well as think in a fresh way about your creativity through the process of fabric dyeing. We'll do a lot of writing and dyeing this semester.

Class Process:

On Tuesdays, we'll write (EH 403) and on Thursdays, we'll dye (Annex 2) :

Tuesday:

- We'll start each class with a writing exercise, based on *In Brief*; You will complete the writing assignment for homework and hand it in to me on Thursday.
- We'll discuss the Tharp chapter.
- We'll learn "tools" to improve our writing.

Thursday:

- I'll demonstrate a different dyeing technique most weeks.
- You will then work on your own fabric.

Please note: Plan to spend time outside of class both writing and dyeing fabric

Before each class, you will:

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- read the assigned chapter from Tharp, and write a journal response in preparation for class discussion.
- Complete your *In Brief* writing, started in class.
- Work on your portfolio.
- prepare your fabric for dyeing.
- In the last month of class, you will work on your final cloth and word project.

Assignments:

1. Journal

30%

The journal, which is based on your responses to Tharp's book and *In Brief*, will be two single spaced, computer generated pages which you will bring to class each week. Tharp is due every Tuesday and *In Brief* is due every Thursday.

For Tharp:

- show me you've done the reading;
- apply what you've read to your own life.

You will find the journal prompts for Tharp in the class packet. Hand in a single-spaced, full page Tharp journal every Tuesday when we meet.

For *In Brief*:

We'll start the writing in class on Tuesday, and you will complete the writing at home:

- use the writing "tool" associated with the prompt;
- Answer the question: How could I turn this topic into an extended creative project?

Hand in a single-spaced, full page *In Brief* piece to me every Thursday when we meet.

Follow this format:

In the top left hand corner of each journal, print:

Name:

Date:

Topic:

You'll earn journal credit if you:

Give me an honest, full, single-spaced page. No extra large margins or big type please;

You may, of course, write more than two pages per class;

Hand your work in each class session. No late work, please.

I won't grade you on spelling or grammar, but I will ask you to rewrite if I'm stumbling over too many errors. Your grade will be based on how many full pages you hand in. You have 2 "freebies," (in other words, two journal pages) and after that your grade will be effected in the following way: -3 = A-; -4 = B+ ; -5 = B ; -6 = B- and so on.

Please Note: I don't take late journal pages unless you negotiate with me before the due date.

2. Creativity Portfolio:

30%

Over the course of the semester, you'll do a lot of both text and textile work. Put together an

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attractive portfolio of your work, organizing it in a way that makes sense to you. At the beginning of the portfolio, write a one page introduction, explaining what you've learned and how you've organized your portfolio. Include verbal and visual inspirations and influences. The portfolio is due on Tuesday, November 26th.

3. Finished Project:

30%

For your final project, you will combine text and textile in a way that is meaningful for you. You'll give me a written proposal on Tuesday, October 22nd, and we'll spend the last few weeks of the class foregrounding this project. You'll show the completed project to an audience on the last day of class, Thursday, December 5th. We'll talk more about this project as the class gets going.

5. Oral Presentation:

5%

On the last day of class, Thursday, December 5th, I'll invite each one of you to show us your completed project and describe your process, design choices, challenges and accomplishments. We'll invite family and friends to attend.

6. Museum Visit:

5%

One of the best "scratching" opportunities you can create for yourself is a visit to an art gallery or museum. These places showcase the work of other artists, and even if it's a different genre, we can learn from the exhibits, get ideas for our own work, and see things in a larger context. For this assignment, you'll visit an art gallery or museum, and then write a two page, double-spaced paper focused around the following questions and information:

What is the title, place and purpose of this exhibition? Describe the show briefly. Include a copy of a brochure or flyer, if it's available.

why Select one piece that strikes you. Take a photo so we can see it, too, and then explain this piece stands out for you.

Where do you see an interplay of text and textile in this exhibit? Comment on it.

How does this exhibit inspire your work, shift your thinking, or give you pause for thought?

We'll talk in class about places you can go to fulfil this assignment. You can make your visit and write your paper at any time during the semester. You'll make an illustrated presentation in class on Tuesday, November 12th.

7. Attendance and Participation:

10%

Your regular class attendance is vital for the following reasons:

- I'll be teaching you a related series of skills, each building on the last one. If you miss a step, you'll have a difficult time completing the semester's assignments. Like you, I have a full schedule, so I don't have time to repeat what you miss.
- I teach through discussion more often than by lecturing, so your attendance, careful

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preparation, and participation play an important part in creating the class community. I grade your participation according to the number of times you attend class during the semester, working on the basis that you can't participate if you don't attend. Here's how it will work: 2 absences= A; 3 absences= A-; 4 absences= B+; and so on. You have two "freebies." Your freebies are intended to cover such emergencies as the day you were sick, the day the baby sitter didn't make it, or the day your car broke down. After your 2 freebies, every absence counts against you in terms of your attendance and participation grade, regardless of the reason for not attending. When you come to class late, you disrupt all of us.

I'll start promptly at 12 noon each class session, so please come to class on time. Late arrival to class disrupts me, your classmates, the flow of activities, and will count as an absence.

8. Studio Assistant:

Serious play, which is what we'll be doing all semester, can be messy especially when we're working with dyes. We will all do our part, cleaning up after ourselves, but at the end of each Thursday session, there's a certain amount of clean up, such as gathering up towels to wash, cleaning spots of dye from the floor etc. Please volunteer to stay after class to help me do that clean up.

Your grade:

Weekly Journal	30%
Creativity Portfolio	25%
Text/Textile Project	25%
Attendance	10%
Museum visit paper	5%
Oral Presentation	5%
Total:	100%

Office Hours:

Holding office hours is an important part of my commitment to the class. This is a time when you can receive individual attention from me. You'll find me in my office on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Elizabeth Hall. I realize those times don't work for everyone, so I'm always willing to make an appointment with you. Leave me a phone message, e-mail me, or talk with me in class if you want to set up an appointment outside office hours. It's easy to make contact with me; just look at the top of this syllabus for my phone number and e-mail address.

I work in the library on Mondays and Wednesdays as the Honors Director. On those two days, you can find me on the 3rd floor of the Stewart Library in the Honors Center, room 225, or you can call me at 626-6186.

Academic Honesty:

You're expected to behave in an honest way, which means no cheating, plagiarizing, lying

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and/or bribery. Do familiarize yourself with the WSU Student Code as it explains your rights and responsibilities. Claim your education by doing your own work.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary. I want you to feel as comfortable as possible in this class, so please talk with me if I need to be aware of your situation.

Core Beliefs:

According to PPM 6-22 IV, students are to “determine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with a student’s core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. This request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the department head. The student’s request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on the student’s beliefs.”

Please talk with me if you experience any conflict of core beliefs; you and I can almost always negotiate a way forward without taking the formal route described above.

Class Expectations:

The syllabus is a contract between you and me. You can expect me to:

- Attend class regularly, on time, and prepared;
- Stick to the syllabus. If there's any reason to change it, I'll discuss the change with you before making the change;
- Return your work, graded, within a week of the due date;
- Attend my office hours on a reliable basis.

In return, I expect you to:

- Attend class regularly, and on time,
- Do the work conscientiously, and honestly;
- Meet the course deadlines for assignments;
- Take part in the life of the class by entering into discussions and group work.

I will talk with you if I have any difficulty meeting my expectations. Please talk with me if you face any challenges fulfilling your responsibilities to this class.

Syllabus

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- Week 1** Tuesday, August 27th
Introduction to the class: Text and Textile
- Thursday, August 29th
Introduction to the dye studio
- Week 2** Tuesday, September 3rd
Tharp Chapter 1 I walk into a white room
In Brief writing exercise
- Thursday, September 5th
Demonstration: Manipulating fabric in preparation for dyeing
- Week 3** Tuesday, September 10th
Tharp Chapter 5 Before you can think out of the box
In Brief writing exercise
- Thursday, September 12th
Demonstration: Dyeing fabric
- Week 4** Tuesday, September 17th
Tharp Chapter 6 Scratching
In Brief writing exercise
Show and Tell
- Thursday, September 19th
Demonstration: Overdyeing the fabric
- Week 5** Tuesday, September 24th
Tharp Chapter 2 Rituals of preparation
In Brief writing exercise
Show and Tell
- Thursday, September 26th
Demonstration: Keeping a journal
- Week 6** Tuesday, October 1st
Tharp Chapter 3 Your creative DNA
In Brief writing exercise

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Show and Tell

Thursday, October 3rd

Demonstration: Discharging fabric

Week 7

Tuesday, October 8th

Tharp Chapter 9 Skill

In Brief writing exercise

Show and Tell

Thursday, October 10th

Demonstration: Printing and writing on fabric

Week 8

Tuesday, October 15th

Tharp Chapter 4 Harness your memory

In Brief writing exercise

Show and Tell

Thursday, October 17th

Demonstration: Other ways to dye

Week 9

Tuesday, October 22nd

In Brief writing exercise

Show and Tell

Proposal for your final project due

Thursday, October 24th

Demonstration: Shiva sticks and plate rubbing

Proposal for your final project due

Week 10

Tuesday, October 29th

Tharp Chapter 7 Accidents will happen

In Brief writing exercise

Show and Tell

Thursday, October 31st

Week 11

Tuesday, November 5th

Tharp Chapter 8 Spine

In Brief writing exercise

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Show and Tell

Thursday, November 7th NO CLASS

Week 12 Tuesday, November 12th Museum presentation and illustrated paper due
Tharp Chapter 10 Ruts and Grooves
In Brief writing exercise
Show and Tell
Museum presentation and illustrated paper due

Thursday, November 14th

Week 13 Tuesday, November 19th
Tharp Chapter 11 An “A” in failure
In Brief writing exercise
Show and Tell

Thursday, November 21st

Week 14 Tuesday, November 26th Creativity Portfolio due
“Art and Life” article
In Brief writing exercise
Show and Tell

Thursday, November 28th Thanksgiving

Week 15 Tuesday, December 3rd
Tharp Chapter 12 The long run

Thursday, December 5th
Show and Tell exhibition of final Text/Textile Project