Program: UW in India
Course Title: Tutorial: Studio and Performing Arts: Weaving
Course Equivalencies: TBD
Total Hours: 45 contact hours
Recommended Credits: 3
Suggested Cross Listings: TBD
Language of Instruction: Hindi/English
Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description
The Tutorial course seeks to bring a hands-on, applied dimension to students’ academic interests and requires substantial, sustained contact with and immersion into the host community. Though there are associated readings and writing assignments that are required for the completion of the course and the granting of academic credit, the tutorial focuses on the benefits of structured experiential learning.

The Weaving Tutorial focuses on one of the most distinctive art forms of Varanasi. Weaving is also a prominent industry of the city, and the famous “Banarasi saree” is coveted as one of the finest examples of traditional silk weaving. While there are several factories where weaving is still done by hand on looms, the development of powerlooms, computerized embroidery units, and other machines have completely transformed the craft. Even as this art form has flourished in this region of India, it has also always been linked through its design elements and trade routes to locations as far away as China and Europe. In addition to studying methods and techniques, students of the weaving tutorial will also visit communities of weavers in Varanasi, where they will observe each step of the weaving process.

Students of the Weaving Tutorial in Varanasi will have the unique opportunity to participate in the guru-shishya (student) tradition of pedagogy, while at the same time working with program faculty to review contemporary literature related to the field and to discuss themes related to experiential learning more broadly. In this course, the student will be familiarized with fundamental techniques of Weaving. Specific designs/styles taught may vary from semester to semester and student to student. Levels of progress will depend substantially on the individual student’s involvement and ability to conduct intensive, independent practice.

Objectives
- Enhance understanding of a traditional art form through academic as well as structured experiential learning
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- Gain hands-on competence in a traditional art form through 1:1 contact with an expert in the field, through the special guru-shishya (student) relationship
- Develop an awareness of culturally-specific teaching and working styles and environments
- Learn how to bring together first-person insights with supporting academic materials, combining personal reflection with critical engagement in writing
- Learn to theorize the process of experiential learning
- Specifically, the student will learn these fundamental aspects of weaving:
  - History and development of weaving in India
  - Learn about different kinds of handloom weaving, such as tapestry and silk-fabric weaving
  - Work to produce two tapestry samples: one small, one large
  - Work to produce three small samples of twill, plain and satin weave tapestries
  - Observe and practice the process of traditional Banaras silk weaving, such as:
    - How to make graphs and translate designs on to graphs
    - How to make and use punch cards
    - Time permitting, work on three samples on silk (simple buttis (dots or spots), geometric floral, non-geometric floral)

Course Requirements
The course is overseen and evaluated by the Tutorial faculty member, with subject area experts contributing components of student evaluation as outlined below.

Students will be expected to maintain the following weekly schedule:
- Group meeting with Tutorial faculty member/subject-area expert or individual check-in with Tutorial faculty member:……………………………………2 hours (20 hours total over the semester)
- Individual class with guru:…………………………………………………………2 hours (25 hours total over the semester, including final performance)
- Independent practice time:…………………………………………………………2 hours (24 hours total over the semester)

Students are evaluated according to the following:
- Academic preparation for each class meeting, demonstrated by command of the background material and ability to discuss it
- Demonstrated progress in chosen area from one instruction session to the next, as evidence of engagement with the material outside the classroom
- Regularly maintained journal that chronicles the meeting of theory and practice in their chosen area of focus – 10 entries of roughly 1 page each
- Final 8-10-page paper based on individual Tutorial
- Class presentation based on Final Individual Tutorial Paper
- Final performance at closing seminar
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Methods of Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Method</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic preparation (class discussions)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Progress in mastery of material</td>
<td>20% (formally evaluated by subject-area guru twice in the semester)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal (10 entries)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Performance</td>
<td>30% (evaluated by subject-area guru)</td>
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Primary Texts

Each student will consult readings specific to their focus area for the Final Paper. Reading lists will be individually developed, in consultation with Tutorial faculty, but following are some suggested texts from which individual readings may be drawn:

http://www.jstor.org/stable/3600780


http://www.i3s.net.in/uploads/pdf/Resources/Status_of_Banaras_Weavers_A_Profile.pdf

Supplementary Texts

In addition to subject area-specific readings, a component of the Tutorial addresses intercultural communication and experiential/embodied learning:


Cohn, Jerry, “An American Student and North Indian Music.” UW/BHU 1966


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Outline of Course Content

Topic 1
- Academic Preparation: Class with all Tutorial students: overview of tutorial: experiential, embodied learning vs formal research project. How to use the Tutorial to support your Directed Field Study, or not. Individual check-in with Tutorial faculty
- Tutorial Focus: 1:1 meeting with Tutorial guru to confirm Tutorial meeting days, times, aims

Topic 2
- Academic Preparation: Introduction to student-guru relationship, traditional performing arts/workplace culture in India, and field-based language acquisition. The journal exercise: how to bring together the first-person, the context, and the theory
- Tutorial Focus: start maintaining journal; start of 1:1 instruction:
  - Theory: Introduction to different types of weaving
  - Practicum: Begin work on small piece to learn tapestry weaving

Topic 3
- Academic Preparation: Individual check-in with Tutorial faculty; the value of being uncomfortable (but how uncomfortable?). Using miscommunication as a vehicle for learning.
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
  - Theory: Guest lecture on textile history of India by Jasminder Kaur
  - Practicum: Continue weaving first tapestry piece

Topic 4
- Academic Preparation: Learning to read non-verbal vocabularies; the value of experiential learning
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
  - Practicum: Continued work on first piece

Topic 5
- Academic Preparation: The city as text; negotiating space and culture through the Tutorial experience; the value of experiential learning. First 5 Journal entries submitted: the content, the process, the first-person.
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
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- Practicum: Finish work on first piece; choose a photo for inspiration, purchase yarn, prepare for second piece

Topic 6
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
  - Practicum: Begin weaving second tapestry piece

Week 7
- Academic Preparation: Individual check-in with Tutorial faculty; review of individual readings for Final Paper and Presentation
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
  - Practicum: Produce sample of twill-weave tapestry on a seated loom; continue work on second tapestry piece; demonstrate work completed thus far at Mid-Term Presentations

Topic 8
- Academic Preparation: How to write a critical reflective paper. Idea of concentric circles in critical reflection and analysis
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
  - Theory: Learning about silk weaving
  - Practicum:
    - Continue second tapestry
    - Learn the basics of silk-weaving: making graphs — choosing graph paper, understanding how to translate design to graph paper, freehand design on graph paper, block-out design, color in design, draw in binding

Topic 9
- Academic Preparation: Process vs. product for performance. Reflecting on the body as text.
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
  - Practicum:
    - Continue second tapestry
    - Produce sample of plain-weave tapestry
    - Continue to learn the basics of silk-weaving: practice with translating designs on graph paper to punch cards (simple buttis (dots or spots), geometric floral, non-geometric floral)

Topic 10
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
  - Theory: Learn about extra-warp border design graphs; observe threading of the loom
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- Practicum:
  - Complete second tapestry
  - Produce sample of satin-weave tapestry
  - Work on designs for silk-weaving

Topic 11
- Academic Preparation: Work on Final Paper and Final Presentation
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
  - Practicum: Continue work on all weaving samples

Topic 12
- Academic Preparation: Submission of Final Paper; Final Presentations; final individual check-in with Tutorial faculty
- Tutorial Focus: Ongoing 1:1 instruction:
  - Practicum: Intensive practice and preparation for Final Performance/ Presentations
  - Final Performances/ Presentations