

Are You Ready to Start the OHS Weaving Certificate Course?

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The Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS) expects students starting the Weaving Certificate Course to have basic weaving knowledge. The course is not designed to teach basic skills that are usually acquired in a community or guild setting. The OHS website has a list of Guilds that may provide beginning weaving classes.

The following list can be used to assess your readiness for the OHS Weaving Certificate Course.

LOOMS: Aware of different types of looms and their parts. Identification of tools such as bobbin winder, shuttles, swift, etc.

WINDING A WARP: This includes calculations necessary to prepare a warp for a specific article(s), use of warping board and warping mill (or whatever is available), warp cross, lease sticks, counting, tying off and chaining.

DRESSING THE LOOM: Either from front to back, or back to front; use of raddle or substitute, tying on or lacing on, tensioning.

THREAD A LOOM: Understand threading a straight twill (1,2,3,4,).

TIE UP: Understand standard tie up (four shaft loom) and skeleton tie up and how to adapt a tie up for rising or sinking shed.

DRAFTING: Understand how to read all parts of a draft and how to do a drawdown for a given threading, tie up and treadling.

WEAVING: Treadling, throwing the shuttle, beating, winding bobbins, controlling edges, string heddles and dealing with broken threads or knots, dealing with different threads or fibres, weaving with tabby.

FINISHING: Hemstitching and hems. Washing, drying & pressing. Care of various fibres.

PLANNING A PROJECT: Calculations necessary for amounts of both warp and weft, consideration of take-up and shrinkage, selecting yarns (types and uses, weights and suitability), determining sett and beat.

BASIC COLOUR THEORY: Some colour wheel work, colour schemes.

TERMINOLOGY: Familiar with weaving terms pertaining to looms, yarns and weaving e.g. warp, weft, sett, sley, loom waste, take-up, ends, picks, shafts, parts of the loom and so on.

WEAVE STRUCTURES: Plain weave, straight and simple point twills should be understood. Awareness of special techniques like inlay or pickup.

RECORD KEEPING: Familiar with keeping weaving records including: width, sett, sley, yarns used, threading, source of pattern, tie up, treadling, length of warp, measurements of articles woven on the loom, off the loom and finished, costs of materials and time involved in design and weaving.