

**ART 329**  
**Special Topics in Fibers**

**SYLLABUS**  
**COMMISSIONS: The Artist / Client Process**

**Course Overview**

This class is designed to provide students with valuable career development experience. This is an innovative course; the first of its kind offered in the School of Art. One of the most significant highlights is that an adventurous group of individuals from the community has agreed to work with us in the role of our Clients. Each student and a sponsor will work together throughout the quarter as an Artist / Client team. While the end product will be a collection of beautiful designs that will be realized in the form of hand woven carpets, the benefits of the learning process will be measured throughout the term as the relationships and the designs develop. Each student will gain direct experience with many of the skills involved in the rewarding relationship that takes place between an art patron and an artist as they work together in the process of completing a commissioned work.

**Course Objectives:**

- To become familiar with a technical understanding of the structures of hand woven carpets in order to develop a contextual vocabulary which is appropriate for use in the design of carpets and area rugs
- To learn a variety of strategies and skills for design development and professional presentation and communication
- To become acquainted with small business principles including business planning and budget, development strategies, promotion and networking.
- To learn details involved in working with a foreign supplier, monitoring production schedules for projects, international shipping and customs brokerage, etc.
- To become familiar with Fair Trade in developing economies and to the realities of the Nepali social + economic climate as it pertains to artisans / weavers of your rugs.

**Course Work:**

There are two basic components to this course. First, students will be provided with access to a range of resources and original source materials on which to base their initial research. Concurrently, students will develop their design ideas in the context of the specific site - with the direct input and feedback from their sponsors and faculty. The classroom will function as a group design studio and students will regularly present their works in progress for feedback and critique from their peers and professor.

Slide lectures will introduce students to:

- the world of hand rug weaving in Nepal
- the ways in which historic and ethnographic textiles have been used as sources of inspiration in contemporary art and architecture
- to the work of some successful carpet designers
- to previous works completed by former students from this course

Speakers include:

- a presentation on artist as businessperson, by an artist who has produced both private and public commissions and has sold through galleries and a range of other venues.
- representatives from the business sector to discuss details of small business organization and the Business of Art - and review the small business presentations
- class field trips to rug collections and showrooms in Seattle + the Seattle Design Center

**Course Requirements:**

- Maintain a studio log-book detailing all time spent on project
- Maintain complete records of all email, telephone and in person conversations with your client.
- Maintain complete documentation of each design you are working on, including sketches, presentation materials, iterations and revisions, etc.
- Participate in an Artist/Client presentation to discuss your project and process with the class.
- Produce a completed design formatted for weaving: either as an .ai file, or as a 1/4 scale line drawing with all colors noted appropriately.
- 2 copies of a formal, bound, dossier, due the last week of class in which you document the evolution of the design and the final results. One will be for the class, the other for your clients.
- Electronic copy of final design, order form, and strike off diagram.
- Assist in the preparation of the exhibition of rugs in summer - announcement cards, pick up and deliver rugs, etc.

**Grading:** This is a class dealing with issues of professionalism and your grade will reflect the manner in which you work with your client, your studio cohort and the extended class as a whole.

Your participation for all of the scheduled class meetings and guest speakers is expected, as is full participation during critiques and class discussions and will constitute 30% of your grade. Completion of all assigned work as scheduled is 30% your grade. The remainder will be based upon the quality of your design work, documentation, presentations, and final dossier.

"If you would like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, (206) 543-8924 (V/TTY). If you have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating you have a disability that requires academic accommodation, please present the letter to me so we can discuss the accommodations you might need for the class."