

## Knitting 101

1-2 units

**Location/Time:** 6:30pm-8:30pm, Kroeber 155

**Facilitators:** Shirley Zhou, Chris Lamb, Isabelle Boatright, Leah Kahn, Jessica MacFarlane

**Email:** [calknits@gmail.com](mailto:calknits@gmail.com) (ask for individual facilitators' emails if you need them)

**Office Hours:** For additional help, come early, stick around after class, or email us!

### Course description:

Knitting is a universal activity that provides both stress relief and a useful product. Students can knit during class while still paying attention, and create beautiful gifts for friends, family, and charity. Experienced knitters can also knit while walking around or waiting in line, staying active during down time. Knitting is useful for all types of people, especially those who like to make things, express creativity, and keep busy.

Students will be required to select, read, and complete annotations on at least 3 articles or book chapters of their choice related to the cultural and creative aspects of knitting. Students may use one of the readings from our provided reading list below as one of the 3 required readings. An annotation worksheet will be provided to help students complete this assignment. These readings and annotations can be done anytime over the course of the semester, and students will turn their 3 completed annotations at the end of the DeCal.

The goal of this class is to enable students, by the end of the semester, to execute and design patterns, as well as to build a local knitting community in which to share new ideas and techniques. This course will cover the basic techniques, but encourages students to pursue their own personal interests within the craft and to explore the multitude of resources available locally and online. The annotation assignment will also help the facilitators build an archive of resources on knitting culture for future lectures and classes.

This course will consist of a 2 hour combined lecture and practice period once a week. Lectures will cover

- Basic knitting terminology
- Different types of needles and yarn
- Casting on, knitting and purling
- Different types of stitches
- Increasing and decreasing
- Special techniques, such as cables
- Following and creating patterns
- Using multiple needles / advanced projects

There will be an (optional) field trip during the semester, and more can be organized. These will be trips to JoAnn to buy yarn and knitting needles for the students' final projects.

**Prerequisites:**

All skill levels are welcome, but this class will be taught assuming that students are coming in as beginners (no knitting experience). Beginners may take the course for 1 unit if they plan to complete at least 3 ft of a scarf for their final project and incorporate at least two of the knitting techniques taught in the course. Beginners may take the course for 2 units if they plan to complete at least 6 ft of a scarf for their final project and use a pattern from our course list that incorporates several of the knitting techniques taught in the course. Intermediate students will complete two smaller, more complex projects: a hat and a glove. Advanced students will have the option of making a sweater or working on personal projects with facilitator guidance.

*Required materials (Beginner - varies for other sections):*

- Two sets of needles, one double-pointed, one single-pointed or circular, size 6-9
- Yarn (We will have a field trip to buy yarn together. One skein of yarn can be around ~\$3)
- Scissors
- Darning needle with an eye large enough to thread yarn through

**Attendance and Participation:**

Because of the limited number of spaces available, students are only allowed two absences. If you truly need to miss more than one class, you must email the instructor in advance and do a make-up project. The makeup project will consist of a swatch of material based on the material covered in the missed class. More than two unexcused or consecutive absences will lead to the student being dropped from the class or, after the class drop deadline, a grade of NP.

**Annotation Assignment and Knitting Homework:**

Students will be expected to come in every week with their completed homework swatches. Facilitators will check their students' completion of homework. Students should always have something to work on during practice period. Later on in the course, students may work on their final projects during class.

Students will be required to select, read, and complete an annotation assignment for each of 3 articles/book chapters of their choice. These readings can be done anytime over the course of the semester, and students will turn in their completed annotations at the end of the semester.

**Midterm/Final Project:**

You must complete 3 ft of a scarf by the end of the class if you are taking the beginner section of the class for 1 unit. You must complete at least 6 ft of a scarf if you are taking the beginner's section of the class for 2 units, and your scarf pattern must come from a pre-chosen list of patterns that incorporate some of the more intermediate knitting techniques. You must choose and a scarf pattern by the midterm date. During our last class, everyone will come up and present their finished project and present key interesting findings from one of the articles/sources they used for their annotation assignment.

## Course Website:

All required readings, homework swatches, presentations, and lectures are available on the course website, <http://calknits.wix.com/knitting101>.

## Grade Distribution:

- 30% Attendance
- 20% HW (the swatch of the previous week's concept)
- 25% Midterm
- 25% Final Project

## Reading List

### Knitting Culture

- Urban Knitting: The Soft Side of Street Art (pp. 9-15, starting knitting paragraph 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph): <http://cumulushelsinki2012.org/cumulushelsinki2012.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Urban-Knitting-%E2%80%93-the-Soft-Side-of-Street-Art.pdf>
- The Sweater Curse: <http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/the-sweater-curse>
- Pride in the Wool: The Rise of Knitting: <http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2011/jul/06/wool-rise-knitting>

### Knitting in History

- Knitting as Dissent: Female Resistance in America Since the Revolutionary War:
- <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1695&context=tsaconf>
- A Stitch in Time: A Brief History of Knitting, in Taking Back the Knit: Creating Communities via Needlecraft (pp. 13-17): <http://www.craftivism.com/archives/taking.back.the.knit.pdf>
- Or take notes on one of our history presentations! (any of the “Knitting in \_\_\_\_” presentations and History of Knitting)

## Schedule:

Wk	Date	Lecture Topic	Instruction Videos	Homework
0	2/3	-Introduction and syllabus -Presentation -Explaining knitting basics: tools, gauges, etc.	Needle Characteristics: Video: <a href="http://youtu.be/NUdoJ80FIW8">http://youtu.be/NUdoJ80FIW8</a> Gauge: Video: <a href="http://youtu.be/Omek0d4xWJs">http://youtu.be/Omek0d4xWJs</a>	None!
1	2/10	<u>Basics 1</u> -Casting on -Knitting -Purling	Cast On: Video: <a href="http://youtu.be/sN9cNEozOLc">http://youtu.be/sN9cNEozOLc</a> Knitting: Video: <a href="http://youtu.be/ftznP_omoKg">http://youtu.be/ftznP_omoKg</a> Purling: Video: <a href="http://youtu.be/NsXr0sHaNdQ">http://youtu.be/NsXr0sHaNdQ</a> Tinking: Video: <a href="http://youtu.be/sqI9PkAqY60">http://youtu.be/sqI9PkAqY60</a>	Knitting Swatch 1: Stockinette and Garter Stitch

2	2/17	President's Day, No Class!		
3	2/24	<u>Basics 2</u> -Continue casting on, knitting, purling -Binding Off -Ribbing (Seed and Moss stitches)	Binding off: <b>Video:</b> <a href="http://youtu.be/uIRuzLUDk7o">http://youtu.be/uIRuzLUDk7o</a>	Knitting Swatch 2: Ribbing
4	3/2	<u>Basics 3</u> -Tinking -Seed Stitch -Basketweave	Changing colors: <b>Video:</b> <a href="http://youtu.be/MZKNuDQNIlmM">http://youtu.be/MZKNuDQNIlmM</a> <a href="http://youtu.be/fgB9iaMWvX0">http://youtu.be/fgB9iaMWvX0</a>	Knitting Swatch 3: Basketweave and seed stitch
5	3/9	Decreasing (ssk, k2tog), Joining yarn balls/Color-Switching, (Increasing)	Decreases: <b>Videos:</b> <a href="http://verypink.com/category/techniques/decreases/">http://verypink.com/category/techniques/decreases/</a>	Knitting Swatch 4: Decreasing
6	3/16	-Increasing (YO, M1L, M1R) and Decreasing Review	Increases: <b>Videos:</b> <a href="http://verypink.com/category/techniques/increases/">http://verypink.com/category/techniques/increases/</a>	Knitting Swatch 5: Increasing and Decreasing <b>MIDWAY POINT - choose and start your pattern by today!</b>
7	3/23	Spring Break, No Class!		Work on your final project!
8	3/30	Spring Break, No Class! Knitting in the round: DPNs first, then circular needles	Circular Needle Knitting: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMncPOeK29Y">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMncPOeK29Y</a>  DPN Knitting: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9OrDriAmtI">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9OrDriAmtI</a>	Knitting Swatch 6: Circular Knitting
8	4/6	Weaving in ends/finishing tutorial, seaming Continue knitting in the round		Work on your final project! <b>Midterm 2:</b> <b>1 Units (6" of Project)</b> <b>2 Units (1' of Project)</b>
9	4/13	Poll Day/Workday for Final Project		Work on your final project!
10	4/20	Movie Day/Workday for Final Project		Finish your final project!

11	4/27	Present final projects/potluck  Course and instructor evaluations		
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(Schedule may shift slightly if the class is offered on a day of the week that has non-instructional days during Fall semester)

**TO SIGN UP:** There will be an online application given out in the first class section. Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis with seniors prioritized. We will also select for a balanced mix of skill levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced)

**Poll Special Topics:**

During the last few weeks of class, we will post a poll on Facebook with a few interesting knitting techniques. Students will vote on the techniques that they would like to learn, and the most popular techniques will be taught during the last few weeks of class, one technique per week.

**Video Links to Poll Special Topics:**

**Double Knitting:** <http://youtu.be/bZg4DckTMxc>

**Cables:**

- Right Slanting Cable: [http://knitting.about.com/od/knittingskills/ss/right\\_cable.htm](http://knitting.about.com/od/knittingskills/ss/right_cable.htm)
- Left Slanting Cable: [http://knitting.about.com/od/knittingskills/ss/left\\_cable.htm](http://knitting.about.com/od/knittingskills/ss/left_cable.htm)

**More Cable Videos:**

- <http://youtu.be/81luhwkfXCw>
- <http://youtu.be/n2caLM3DHcU>

**Intarsia**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtJdamqXIAU>