



Textile Research Centre

Intensive Textile Course

Hogewoerd 164, 2311 HW Leiden, 071-5134144
09.00 – c.16.00 each day (please be at the TRC by 08.45)

Course content

The course is broken down into the five main elements of a textile: fibre, colour, yarn, woven and non-woven forms, and decoration.

Day 1: Fibre identification

Theory: Introduction to the different types of textile fibres (plant, animal, fur, mineral, artificial, and synthetic).

Practical: Basic fibre identification using senses, burning, staining and microscopic techniques.

Day 2: Spinning and yarns

Theory: Preparation and spinning of main types of natural fibres; the basic spinning techniques: hand spinning; wheel (spindle, spinning).

Practical: Hand spinning and wheel spinning; identification of the main types of spun yarns; carding and combing of woollen fibres.

Day 2 (late afternoon): Dyes and dyeing:

Theory: Introduction to the main types of plant, animal, mineral and dyeing techniques.

Practical: Dyeing with a selection of plant dyes (with and without mordants); understanding the nature of batik, ikat and plangi (tie-and-dye) dyeing using synthetic dyes. Looking at textiles from India and Indonesia decorated in these techniques.

Day 3: Weaves and weaving

Theory: Introduction to the basic elements of a simple loom

Practical: Identification of the main types of weaves; drawing a simple weave graph; working a simple frame to reconstruct the weaves just looked at.

Day 4 (morning): Weaves and weaving (cont.)

Day 4 (afternoon): Non-woven materials

Theory and practical: Introduction to the main forms of non-woven materials: leather, felt, knitted, crochet, braids, laces, etc.

Day 5: Decorative techniques

Theory and practical: Introduction to the main forms of decorative techniques:

- (a) applied (appliqué; embroidery; braids, bands and tassels; sequins, spangles, beads; etc);
- (b) printed (batik, block, plate, screen, roller)