



## **BOOK DESIGN / ART 335 / Spring 2026**

Karrie Simpson Voth

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **01 INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Karrie Simpson Voth**, Professor and Instructor of Record

**Office:** AD 121

**Phone:** 785-628-5921 or 785-628-4247 (Art and Design office)

**E-mail:** [klsimpsonvoth@fhsu.edu](mailto:klsimpsonvoth@fhsu.edu) (preferred method of contact)

**Schedule an Appointment:** <https://calendly.com/ksimpsonvoth>

### **02 COURSE INFORMATION**

**Class Hours:** 1:30-4:15pm (TT), AD 204

### **03 COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This class is an introduction to book structures, both physical and visual. We will cover adhesive and non-adhesive bookbinding techniques. Class activities will be a combination of discussions, demonstrations, hands-on projects, and class presentations.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will discuss and explore the construction of non-traditional book forms, using both traditional and non-traditional bookmaking materials.
2. Through exposure to many examples of artists' books, students will discuss and identify new ideas of what constitutes a book and how non-traditional and re-purposed materials may successfully be used to create a book structure.
3. Students will be able to identify the historic roots and time periods of various book forms from both western and eastern history.
4. Students will incorporate self-expression and creativity in their bookbinding projects.
5. Students will demonstrate proficiency in the use of basic bookbinding techniques, tools, and equipment.

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REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

**Materials Required by Student:**

- Olfa knife
- Heavy-duty Olfa knife
- Extra blades for Olfa knives
- Scissors
- #2 Pencils (NO PENS)
- White eraser
- Sketchbook
- Parent size paper (buy as needed)\*
- Metal ruler with cork back
- Kitchen butter knife
- Wax paper (2 rolls)
- Other binding materials as needed

**Materials Supplied:**

- \* Decorative papers
- \* Leather
- \* Bone folder
- \* 2 Glue brushes (1/2" and 2")
- \* Awl
- \* Bookbinding needle
- \* Tapestry Needles
- \* Bookbinder's board
- \* Speedball roller
- \* 2 Glue containers and 2 types of glues
- \* Screw punch tool
- \* Embossing stylus tool (*for use in class*)

*\*Paper can be purchased at Northwestern Printers located at 114 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St. or the FHSU Print Shop located in the Brooks Building behind the Motor Pool building.*

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STUDENT RESOURCES

**Technology Requirement:**

All students enrolled at Fort Hays State University must have a computer\* for use in various university learning experiences. \*On-campus students are expected to have a laptop to ensure mobility. TigerTech only aids with accessing and using FHSU-hosted systems and University-owned equipment. FHSU does not sell computers or provide computer repair for student devices.

**Hardware:**

To meet basic security, networking, and upgrade requirements, your computer should be running Mac OS X (or newer). Students are encouraged to utilize the two Mac labs in the department (rooms 202 and 210). Ideally, the manufacturer should support your computer's warranty throughout your college career. Due to limited functionality, iPads are not recommended for use as your primary device. Ask your instructor or academic department to learn about any specific technology requirements that may apply for your program/courses.

**Software:**

Enrolled students at FHSU can take advantage of various options to get FREE and/or discounted software for use on personal devices at [www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/software/](http://www.fhsu.edu/tigertech/software/). If you have any technical issues, contact FHSU TigerTech at 785-628-3478, and notify the instructor and/or GTA.

Students have access to academic services, technical support and student services at Fort Hays State University. You can find the resources online at FHSU Blackboard Student Tutorials. For more information you can contact TigerTech at 785-628-3478 or FHSU TigerTech.

## 06 TEACHING METHODS & EXPECTATIONS

### Delivery Method:

Classes will be fully on campus (unless otherwise stated). Below is a breakdown of each platform we will use for some or all of the semester. The subject matter will be taught through lectures, discussions, readings, collaboration, and independent research.

- **Demonstrations:** It is important that students take concise notes during all demonstrations of new techniques and presentations of new projects so the information is clear, understood, and available to refer to.
- **Blackboard:** This tool is a university standard and will serve as the central hub for this class. Here, you will find your grades, announcements, links to video content, and more. Blackboard is good about sending alerts, but checking the course page early and often is always good.

## 07 ASSESSMENT METHODS & GRADING CRITERIA

### Grading Criteria

Each of the bindings will be evaluated based on the accuracy and precision of the finished work. They will be evaluated on the number of initial ideas (thumbnails), how thoroughly the selected possibilities are explored, and the finished piece's concept, design, and craftsmanship. All books are worth 100 points unless otherwise indicated, for a total of 750 points.

#### GRADING SCALE:

<b>A</b>	650–585
<b>B</b>	584–520
<b>C</b>	519–455
<b>D</b>	454–390
<b>U</b>	389–0

#### BINDINGS: Non-Adhesive

- Pamphlet Stitch
- Long Stitch
- Coptic Stitch
- Japanese Hemp Leaf Stitch
- Split-Strap Stitch
- Crossed Snowshoe Stitch
- Final Book (TBD)

#### Adhesive

- Hardbound Stitch  
(*embossed leather*)

## 08 COURSE POLICIES

### Class Attendance/Participation:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Lectures will be given on any day, and you will be expected to know the material for class discussions and projects. Three unexcused absences will result in the loss of a letter grade at the semester. Five unexcused absences will result in the final grade of "U". Excused absences are illness and official University travel. If you know you must be absent, please call, e-mail, or leave a message with the art office (628-4247). Please be on time to class. Being tardy two times will equal one absence, and so on.

### Assignment Due Date:

When a deadline is set, you are expected to meet it on time. You must spend extra time out of class to work on your projects. Only serious reasons will be accepted for an extension. All projects are due on the noted day unless prior arrangements are made. For every day late a project is turned in, one letter grade will be deducted from the total grade. Assignments turned in late will be accepted up to two class periods late. After that, it is an automatic "U" (unless other arrangements have been made).

### Other Policies

- Academic integrity is essential. Students are expected to steal inspiration, but severe penalties will be enforced if you directly copy existing work.
- Unless using a mobile device for research or taking notes, please keep them silent and out-of-reach.

### Facility Hours & Policies

The Schmidt Foundation Center for Art and Design Hall will be open from 7:00 AM-9:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Students will need to obtain a "Night and Weekend Pass" from the main office to be in the building after hours, weekends, and on holiday breaks when the building is locked. Each student major will have access to enter the building with their Tiger ID card and must keep their pass with them while in the building as the campus police will be patrolling the premises each night and will ask to see the student's pass and Tiger ID. Anyone who does not have their Night and Weekend Pass and ID with them will be asked to leave by campus police (if it is after regular hours or on a holiday break). The student may come back if they have those two items with them.

## 09 UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- [Academic Honesty](#)
- [Attendance](#)
- [Withdrawal](#)
- [Student Accessibility Services](#)
- [Kelly Center Support Services](#)
- [Title IX Policy](#)
- [Career Services](#)
- [Technology Services](#)
- [Title IX](#)

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and might change during the semester depending on how the course evolves. The content is subject to change depending on students' progress. Students will be notified of any changes through announcements either in class or on our Facebook and Blackboard pages. We will plan on being on campus unless noted.

	DATE	LESSON	PROJECT DETAILS & DEADLINES
WEEK 1	January 20 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Syllabus and materials list</li> <li>Mechanics of a book</li> <li>Terminology</li> <li>Practice cutting paper</li> <li><b>FOR THURSDAY: Bring 2-3 sheets of parent-sized paper</b></li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 1: PAMPHLET STITCH</b> DUE: Tuesday, January 27
	January 22 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand cut and fold paper (1 section)</li> <li>Create dummy folio</li> <li>Create cover</li> <li>Punch holes in section and cover</li> <li>Sew book</li> <li><u>Introduction to Book 2: Long Stitch book</u></li> <li><b>FOR TUESDAY: Bring enough parent-sized paper for 10-12 sections</b></li> </ul>	<i>*Bring paper for Long Stitch book on Tuesday, Jan. 27 (10-12 sections)</i>
WEEK 2	January 27 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DUE: Pamphlet Stitch</b></li> <li><u>Begin Book 2: Long Stitch</u></li> <li>Hand cut and fold paper; assemble sections (10-12)</li> <li>Create sewing dummy folio</li> <li>Punch sewing stations in each section</li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 2: LONG STITCH</b> DUE: Thursday, Feb. 5
	January 29 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measure and cut cover using chipboard</li> <li>Design cover</li> <li>Press cover once finished</li> </ul>	<i>*Bring paper for Coptic book on Thursday, Feb. 5 (12-15 sections)</i>
WEEK 3	February 3 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measure and cut slots on cover spine</li> <li>Sew book</li> <li><b>FOR THURSDAY: Bring enough parent-sized paper for 12-15 sections for the Coptic Stitch</b></li> </ul>	
	February 5 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DUE: Long Stitch</b></li> <li><u>Introduction to Coptic Stitch</u></li> <li>Find something to repurpose for cover</li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 3: COPTIC STITCH</b> DUE: Tuesday, Feb. 17
WEEK 4	February 10 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut paper based on cover idea</li> <li>Create sewing dummy folio</li> <li>Punch sewing stations into sections</li> <li>Create cover using repurposed materials</li> </ul>	<i>*Bring chipboard and text weight paper for Japanese Stitch on Thursday, Feb. 20 (10-12 cut sheets of text weight paper).</i>

WEEK 4	February 12 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Punch sewing stations in cover</li> <li>Sew book</li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 3: COPTIC STITCH</b> (continued)
WEEK 5	February 17 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DUE: Coptic Stitch</b></li> <li><u>Introduction to Book 4: Japanese Hemp Leaf</u></li> <li><b>FOR THURSDAY: Bring cut sheets and chipboard</b></li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 4: JAPANESE HEMP LEAF STITCH</b> DUE: Tuesday, March 3
	February 19 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fold cut sheets in half (no sections)</li> <li>Create sewing dummy folio using handout as a guide</li> <li>Punch sewing stations on open end of folded sheets (stab binding)</li> </ul>	<i>*Bring paper for Strap Book on Thursday, March 5 (15-20 sections)</i>
WEEK 6	February 24 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create 2 separate covers with end sheets</li> <li>Press covers overnight</li> </ul>	<i>*Bring flexible belts that you can get at least a 15" section per strap (you will need 1-4 depending on the number of straps you choose). The ARC and Goodwill are great places to find cheap/unique belts.</i>
	February 26 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sew book (you will need your handout as an additional guide to complete the hemp leaf portion of the stitch)</li> </ul>	
WEEK 7	March 3 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>DUE: Japanese Hemp Leaf Stitch</b></li> <li><u>Introduction to Book 5: Split Strap Book</u></li> <li><b>FOR THURSDAY: Bring paper and belts</b></li> </ul>	
	March 5 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut and fold paper into 15-20 sections</li> <li>Choose 1-4 belts for straps and cut each to 15" in length</li> <li>Cut slits in the middle of each strap</li> <li>Create sewing dummy folio using straps as guides</li> <li>Punch sewing stations in sections</li> <li>Sew sections onto belt straps—one at a time—starting with the middle strap</li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 5: SPLIT STRAP STITCH</b> DUE: Thursday, March 26  <i>*Bring paper for Crossed Snowshoe book on Thursday, March 24 (10-12 sections)</i>
WEEK 8	March 10 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sew headbands</li> <li>Cut 2 separate cover boards using provided bookboard</li> <li>Design covers and end sheets</li> <li>Press covers when done</li> </ul>	

WEEK 8	March 12 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut slots into covers</li> <li>• Cut straps to length</li> <li>• Glue straps into covers and secure with clamps (and wax paper).</li> <li>• Press overnight</li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 5: SPLIT STRAP STITCH</b> (continued)
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**SPRING BREAK / MARCH 16-20**

WEEK 10	March 24 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special stitching to secure straps to the covers and to add detail</li> <li>• <u>Introduction to Crossed Snowshoe Book</u></li> <li>• <b>FOR THURSDAY Bring paper (10-12 sections)</b></li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 5: SPLIT STRAP STITCH (CONT.)</b> DUE: Tuesday, March 26  <i>*Bring paper for Crossed Snowshoe book on Thursday, March 27 (10-12 sections)</i>
WEEK 11	March 26 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DUE: Split Strap Stitch</b></li> <li>• Cut and fold paper (8-12 sections)</li> <li>• Choose leather for cover</li> <li>• Create a sewing dummy folio</li> <li>• Plan and measure a grid system for sewing stations on the cover for the spine of the book (use computer)</li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 6: CROSSED SNOWSHOE STITCH</b> DUE: Tuesday, April 7  <i>*Bring paper for Hardbound book on Thursday, April 9 (20-25 sections)</i>
WEEK 12	March 31 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure and cut leather cover</li> <li>• Punch sewing stations in sections</li> <li>• Punch sewing stations in leather cover using your printed grid system as a guide (use the screw punch tool to create the holes in the leather)</li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 6: CROSSED SNOWSHOE STITCH</b> DUE: Tuesday, April 7  <i>*Bring paper for Hardbound book on Thursday, April 9 (20-25 sections)</i>
	April 2 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sew book</li> </ul>	<b>BOOK 7: HARDBOUND</b> DUE: Thursday, April 30  <i>*Bring paper for Secret Belgium Stitch on Thursday, April 30 (12-15 sections)</i>

WEEK 13	April 14 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sew book block</li> <li>• Glue mull to spine and press overnight</li> </ul>	
	April 16 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure pressed book block</li> <li>• Cut cover pieces and glue to connective paper</li> <li>• Glue pieces for embossing on cover</li> <li>• Glue leather lace to spine</li> </ul>	
WEEK 14	April 21 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut leather for cover</li> <li>• Glue cover board to leather and emboss the spine and cover pieces</li> <li>• Press covers overnight</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>BOOK 7: HARDBOUND STITCH (CONT.)</u></b></p> <p>DUE: Thursday, April 30</p> <p><i>*Bring paper for Final Book (TBD) on Tuesday, May 5 (12-15 sections)</i></p>
	April 23 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose headbands and glue to both ends of spine</li> <li>• Glue book block into cover</li> <li>• Press overnight</li> </ul>	
WEEK 15	April 28 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure and cut end sheets for both front and back interior covers</li> <li>• Glue end sheets into covers and press overnight</li> </ul>	
	April 30 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DUE: Hardbound Stitch</b></li> <li>• <u>Introduction to Final Book (TBD)</u></li> <li>• <b>FOR TUESDAY: Bring paper</b></li> </ul>	
WEEK 16	May 5 Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut and fold paper (sections TBD)</li> <li>• Create a sewing dummy folio</li> <li>• Punch sewing stations in sections</li> <li>• Work on cover</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>FINAL BOOK 8: TBD</u></b></p> <p>DUE: Tuesday, May 12</p> <p><b><i>*Bring all books made during semester to the final critique.</i></b></p>
	May 7 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sew book</li> </ul>	
May 12 Tuesday		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>FINAL BOOK DUE (Book TBD)</u></b></li> </ul>	Critique of all books made during the semester.

**DISCLAIMER**

The professor reserves the right to modify this schedule throughout the semester.