

## Art 185LJ Spring 2024 - Natural Dye Experiments

Instructor: Lisa Jevbratt

Time: Friday 10AM to 2PM

Place: Art 0641 in the Atrium and in nature around Goleta and Santa Barbara. Check the class website for locations every week. I will help setting up carpools, but in the end you are responsible for being at the right place at the right time.

Class Website (updated weekly): [http://rosebud.arts.ucsb.edu/~jevbratt/teaching/s\\_24/](http://rosebud.arts.ucsb.edu/~jevbratt/teaching/s_24/)

This is an experiential natural dye class. You will learn how to dye fiber – fabric, yarn, clothing etc. using plants, bugs, and lichens found in nature all around us. We will be out in parks in Santa Barbara and Goleta (carpooling with each other), and on campus collecting our dye stuff, learning about and connecting with the plants around us. We will also spend time in the dye lab preparing our fiber using various mordants, boiling our plants and experiencing the alchemy of color appearing on our fabrics, yarn and garments. During the quarter we will read a few texts and watch some movies to help you think about the role of these dyes and colors throughout history.

There is a **\$40 materials fee** for the class. It covers the fabric for all the dye samples we will be making each class, the chemicals we will be using, as well as a couple of scarf size pieces of fabrics in silk and cotton.

### Some additional materials/supplies you will need:

Rubber gloves

Pens, cardboard, journal, etc. needed to make a dye journal/chart

Fabric/yarn/garment for final project

Household chemicals (citric acid, baking powder) for home dyeing assignment

### Assignments/grading:

1. Dye sample chart/notebook (35% of the grade)

Make small samples of the dyes we make throughout the quarter. Design an interesting way to catalogue/display/store your samples. (I started a Pinterest board with some examples of charts)  
Document your chart on Flickr.

2. Final project (35% of the grade)

Use what you learned in class to dye something that can be used: a piece of garment, a household cloth, some amount of yarn/wool enough to make something.  
Document your process and project on Flickr.

3. A home dyeing experiment documented on the photo site Flickr (10% of the grade)

4. Active participation in the class including documentation on Flickr of work done in class. Participation in reading discussions (20% of the grade)

### Reference materials:

You will be asked to watch some videos and read some texts. We will discuss these in class.

### Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than 1 class it will lower your class grade. You cannot pass the class if you miss more than 2 classes. Always inform the instructor if you are not able to attend or are sick, and we will try to work something out

### Safety:

Use caution when boiling plants in the lab and at home. Some plants might be toxic. Use gloves and have good ventilation. Ammonia used with some dyes can hurt eyes and skin. Be very careful. (You have to submit a safety form for the atrium. It is not targeted to the class)