

Importance of this Module

This course has made me think of materials with a whole new perspective. As a visual art student, I didn't have any sort of background when it came to textiles, it was only an interest. But now just by looking at something as simple as a cotton shirt, I now know the entire process of how the cotton was collected, how it manufactured into a fabric and bought by a consumer as well as what happens to it after it is dumped in the garbage or recycled.

One of the many things I've learned in the course is how different fabrics are made from a scientific point of a view as well as the ethical reasoning behind choosing certain things and the processes behind it. I know have a throughout understand of how a textile material is made as well as the chemical composition behind it which gives it its qualities.

Before taking this course, I generalized that textiles only referred to the traditional items such as wool, jute, silk etc. However after learning about the latest developments in technology and embedding traditional material with non-textile material to create something new entirely, (such as electrostatic materials and other sophisticated fibers), its broaden my horizon of what can be used to make up a fabric.

I think the assignment which I enjoyed the most was the product development one. We were asked to choose an existing product and recreate it with our own new process. It was quite tricky to invent a process which hasn't been thought of before but due to the resources provided in the class as well as additional research, I developed a method by using micro plastics to create polyester.

In addition to learning about material, we were also taught about the harms in the textile industry. I learned about the fast fashion industry and the negative effects it causes on the environment as well as how I'm contributing towards it and what actions I can decrease the negative impact I'm making. As well as solutions behind it such as the concept of sustainability and recycling.

Another important issue talked about was the abuse of animals for fashion. I think it was very crucial to know about the great injustices which happen in the industry against these animals and the immoral practices which are done into acquiring these materials such as fur.

We also learned about printing in fabrics from different methods starting from traditional methods such as screen printing to more modern techniques such as air printing and how with time, new processes are being developed to help cater to this growing economy.

A few more topics of discussion which I found were interesting were the phase change materials which can adapt to different climates and environments and well as the architectural textile module. I hadn't given much thought to textiles being used for other than fabrics before but now I am aware of it being used for multiple different purpose.

All in all, this course really rewarding in the sense that it helped me fill in the gaps about materials and their importance towards society as well as made me look at fabrics with a whole new lens.