

Threads of History: Exploring the World of Oriental Rugs

What makes an Oriental rug so captivating—its elegant design, intricate patterns, or the mystery of its origins? In this richly illustrated course, we will discover the stories woven into these remarkable textiles. We will travel through the history and artistry of rug and carpet weaving, a tradition rooted in Asia and North Africa, with examples dating back to the 4th century BCE. Using stunning visuals and expert insights, we will explore major carpet-making cultures and regions including Anatolia, Iran, Transcaucasia, North Africa, and Central Asia. We will learn to recognize defining features of Oriental rugs: weaving traditions (nomadic and settled), key historical periods (from the Early Modern era through the nineteenth-century), purposes (from prayer to decoration), and production contexts (from royal courts to bustling markets). We will also be introduced to basic methods for identifying weave structures and deepen our appreciation of these remarkable works of art.



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YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Sumru Krody



Sumru Belger Krody is Chief Curator and Avenir Foundation Curator of The Textile Museum Collection at The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum. A specialist in late antique and Islamic textiles, she leads the museum's curatorial department and serves as Editor-in-Chief of *The Textile Museum Journal*. Krody guest lectures at George Washington University and has curated numerous exhibitions, including *Enduring Traditions* and the upcoming *Adorning the Horse*. She has written widely and co-authored nine publications, including *Textile Treasures* (2025).

MONDAYS, JULY 6 THROUGH AUGUST 10

Noon PT | 1 p.m. MT | 2 p.m. CT | 3 p.m. ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Monday, July 6
- Monday, July 13
- Monday, July 20
- Monday, July 27
- Monday, August 3
- Monday, August 10

For more information:

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