CLASS OFFERINGS: Spring 2021
Kate Atherley
kate.atherley@gmail.com
www.kateatherley.com
Twitter, Ravelry: kateatherley; Instagram: kateatherleyknits

Notes:
- All classes are designed specifically for online delivery. Most have student handouts.
- Rates: $125/hour for a multi-hour class booking; $200 for a one-hour presentation.
- Descriptions below are appropriate for publication. I can supply photos for promotion, please ask.
- I do take special requests, and can customize classes – please enquire!

- **GENERAL INTEREST**
- **PATTERN READING & MATHEMATICS**
- **GARMENTS & RELATED SKILLS**
- **SOCKS**
- **MITTENS AND GLOVES**

- **LACE & SHAWLS**
- **FINISHING SKILLS**
- **OTHER SKILLS & TECHNIQUES**
- **DESIGN, PATTERN WRITING & TECHNICAL EDITING**

GENERAL INTEREST
The Good, The Bad and The Pooling: Working with Multicolored Yarns
description: A discussion of the fun and challenges of working with hand-painted yarns. I review different types of hand-painted colorways, and with help of lots of photos, explain how figure out what a yarn will look like knitted up. I'll provide guidance on how to best apply different types of colorways for the most attractive results. Along the way I tell stories about the best, the worst, and the most surprising skeins of variegated yarns I've bought, and I encourage the audience to show off interesting, challenging and problematic skeins so we can figure them out!
skill level: all levels
length: 1 hour

The First One Doesn't Have to Be Awful: How To Ensure Your First Sweater, Your First Socks And Your First Lace Projects Are Easy, Fun And Beautiful
An honest discussion about the challenges facing newer knitters and those looking to expand their skills. I talk about the classic pitfalls of the "first" project, whether it's a sweater pattern that turns out to be a giant blanket of boring stockinette stitch that takes forever to knit, and results in an error-riddled ill-fitting sack, or the first sock with ridiculously tiny yarn and tiny needles... I propose a better way to learn a new technique and tackle a challenge, showing how knitters can ensure that any "first" project –sweater, socks, cables, lace - is something to be proud of. I provide tips for success, from guidance on choosing a good pattern to the knitting and finishing process.
skill level: all levels
length: 1 hour

Yarn Substitutions
description: Mystified by all these terms - double knitting, worsted, aran? Unsure whether fingering is a potato or a yarn? Wondering why you should care about whether a yarn is superwash or not? How do you go about finding a substitute yarn for a pattern, especially if you're shopping online? Suitable for newer to intermediate knitters, this class will explain yarn terminology, and build your knowledge of types of yarns and fibers. We will dive deep into the topic of yarn weights and gauge, giving you foolproof and easy ways to check and get gauge for a pattern – along the way explaining why it matters, when it doesn't, and what to do if you can't get it. We'll also talk about yarn and fiber types, with a deep dive on matching project to yarn for best result.
skill level: all levels
length: can be delivered as a 1-hour lecture or a more in-depth 2-hour class

The following topics are also suitable for broader groups:
Getting Gauge – *see Pattern Reading & Mathematics, below*
Size & Fit: Why the "Medium" Never Fits Quite Right – *see Garments & Related Skills, below*
Blocking & Fiber Care – *see Finishing, below*

PATTERN READING & MATHEMATICS
Pattern Reading

description: Are you finding yourself frequently baffled by your knitting patterns? There is a whole language system knitting patterns use, and it can be intimidating and confusing. Learn to read and understand key concepts and language used in patterns: from standard abbreviations and common pattern stitches to the significance of gauge and what to do about it, and how to handle things like "decrease 1 stitch either end of every 6th row 10 times". Knitters are encouraged to ask questions about patterns they are struggling with.

skill level: beginners, suitable for knitters who are confident with the mechanics of knitting, and are looking to take on their first pattern-based project

length: 2 hours

Getting Gauge

description: You've seen the information in the pattern, and you've been told – over and over again! – that it's important, but do you really "get" gauge? This class answers all your questions about gauge: what it actually means, why it matters, how to check it and what to do about it. We'll talk about proper swatching technique – including tips for making it easier, and when you can avoid it entirely. And we'll provide strategies and solutions for when you just can't get it!

skill level: suitable for knitters who are confident with the mechanics of knitting, but need help with pattern reading and related topics

length: can be delivered as a 1-hour lecture or a more in-depth 2-hour class

Chart Reading

description: Charts are a very useful way to communicate complex pattern stitches, but they can be intimidating to many. This class provides knitters of all levels the tools to read, understand and comfortably work from charts for any type of knitting pattern: colorwork, cables and lace. We'll talk about how to read them, and also share tips for working with them, keeping track of your progress, and making them as easy to read as possible.

skill level: suitable for knitters of all levels who haven't worked from charts before, or have struggled with them

length: can be delivered as a 1-hour lecture or a more in-depth 2-hour class

Math for Knitters: Solving the Knitters' Number Puzzles

description: Everything you need to know to figure out all those tricky numbers puzzles you encounter in your knitting. We'll focus on how math fits into pattern reading – all the aspects of counting and working and keeping track on instructions. We'll cover things like "Decrease every 8 rows 10 times", and "Increase 12 sts evenly distributed across the row". We'll talk about calculating yardage in partial balls of yarn, and how to ensure you'll have enough to complete your project. We'll also have a discussion of gauge and what it really means – and how to deal with it if you can't match. Suitable for newer knitters, and those who wish to get more comfortable reading patterns - it's all about conquering your fear of the numbers and making you a more powerful knitter!

skill level: beginners, suitable for knitters who are confident with the mechanics of knitting, and are starting to work from patterns. This is NOT a garment alterations class.

length: 2 hours

GARMENTS & RELATED SKILLS
Introduction to Top Down Seamless Garment Knitting

description: The top-down one piece garment construction is very popular, particularly for babies' and kids' garments. This class takes you through the process of working a complete mini-sweater project, building all the skills and techniques you need. We'll also address fit and yarn choice, which are crucial to the success of these types of patterns.

skill level: beginner: knitters need to be able to cast on, knit and bind off, no garment experience required; also suitable for more experienced knitters who have never tackled this type of pattern before

length: can be offered a single 2-hour session that provides an overview, or two 2-hour sessions in which we work through the full mini sweater pattern as a group

for the longer version *only* students should have: 4-5mm/US #6-8 16-24 inch circular needle & DPNs, approx. 50gm light-colored medium-weight yarn

Size & Fit: Why the "Medium" Never Fits Quite Right

description: The biggest challenge for many knitters when starting a garment project is knowing which size to make. This class will show you how to decide - and set you well on the way to a successful and flattering sweater. We'll explain how to read sizing tables and schematics to understand how a garment is sized. We'll show you how to measure yourself properly to make the right choice. And most importantly, we'll explain garment fit, including demystifying terms like "negative ease"- and show you how to choose the right pattern from the start.

skill level: all levels, ideal for knitters just starting with garment knitting, or for knitters who haven't had a lot of success with garments

length: 2 hours; a high-level overview can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

Smart Strategies for Garment Knitting

description: This class is all about helping you make a better garment by teaching you how to make great choices. We'll start with tips for choosing a good pattern, through to properly identifying what size to make, to finding the best yarn. We'll have a honest discussion about the issue of gauge, and share tips for ensuring that the knitting is fun and the result fantastic.

skill level: for new garment knitters

length: 2 hours

Intro to Garment Alterations

description: Found the perfect pattern but can't find a yarn that matches gauge? Want to change the size of a pattern? Need shorter sleeves, or a longer body, or a different neckline? We'll teach you how to alter a pattern -- whether for a different gauge, or to change the fit or style. We'll also discuss how to choose patterns that are easiest to alter, and good designs that can be leaping-off points for your own inspirations.

skill level: intermediate, suitable for knitters who have worked a couple of garments from a pattern

length: can be offered a single 2-hour session, or two 2-hour sessions for a deeper dive

SOCKS
Soxpertise

description: You've worked a few socks, now it's time to expand your skills a bit. In this class you'll learn how determine size and fit needs, how to choose a good yarn and reinforce for longevity. We'll address the tricky bits like how to avoid holes at the top of your heel, how to get a tidy gusset pick up, and special cast-ons and cast offs. We'll talk about both toe up and top down socks, and discuss different heel and toe constructions – and when to choose one over another.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 2 hours; a high-level overview can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

The Longest-Lasting Sock

description: Make your handknit socks last longer. This session is all about practical solutions for making the most of these precious items. We'll talk about how to start with longevity in mind: a discussion of yarn type, fabric and fit. I'll share a variety of reinforcement strategies: other yarns and threads, special pattern stitches and key places to work them – not just the heel flap! And I'll provide a few techniques for repairing thin spots and making sure holes never develop.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 2 hours; a high-level overview can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

Custom Fit Socks

description: Liberate yourself from pattern books! Make a sock that's perfect, for any size foot, and in your choice of yarn. I'll show you how to measure and identify your fit needs, and create a perfectly fitting sock, no matter what the requirements. I'll share templates for both top down and toe up socks, so you can work them exactly the way you want.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 2 hours

Go Long: Creating a Custom Fit Knee Sock!

description: Handknit knee socks are fantastically warm and fabulously stylish, but can be pretty challenging to fit. This class teaches you how to use an existing sock pattern as a template, extending the leg so that it's perfectly fitting, looks great and stays up.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 2 hours; a high-level overview can also be delivered as a 1-hour lecture

Heels and Toes

description: For experienced sock knitters, this class dives deep into different types of heel and toe constructions, with a focus on how they affect fit. We discuss some common and not-so-common methods for both top down and toe-up socks, and show you how to easily substitute into an existing pattern, or use them as the basis for your own designs.

skill level: intermediate; students must have knitted a few pairs of socks

length: 2 hours

students will need: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles in your preferred configuration for sock knitting, and scrap medium-weight yarn

FINISHING SKILLS
Fearless Finishing

description: Many knitters avoid a lot of garment patterns because of the finishing work required, and even the most experienced knitters often have holes in their finishing knowledge – or simply lack confidence about them. The reason is simple: information in books and patterns is often very weak in this area, leaving knitters to try to figure it out themselves. This workshop demonstrates some practical, useful and sensible finishing skills. Our objective is to dispel a lot of common myths, break down some common sources of confusion, and take the fear out of it. We'll cover the three key seaming methods – reviewing how to do them and where to use them, including how to set in a sleeve, and we'll talk about picking up stitches, blocking, and weaving in ends.

skill level: all levels

length: 2 hours

optional homework – won't be used in class, but will be for suggested practice: Using 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and medium-weight yarn in a light color, make the following squares: two 4 x 4 in squares in stocking stitch, one 4 x 4 in square in garter stitch, one 4 x 4 in square (k1, p1) ribbing; 2 15-stitch swatches of stockinette stitch – work 4 rows and leave the stitches on holders.

Blocking & Fiber Care

description: Blocking: it's a critical step in the finishing process for hand knits, and is all too often

ignored or skipped. It's incredibly easy, and the value it provides is immense, taking an item from complete to truly, beautifully finished. This session will demystify the process, breaking it down by both fiber and project type. Along the way, we'll also talk about fiber care: safely and easily washing handknits - when you can use the machine and when you should handwash (or not wash at all). We'll also talk about moth prevention, and safe yarn and garment storage.

skill level: all levels

length: can offer as a 1-hour or 2- hour session; the longer version allows for a detailed demonstration of how to use blocking wires for lace projects, and to address questions from attendees about specific projects

LACE & SHAWLS
The Garter Tab

description: A focused session all about the garter tab shawl start – explaining why it's needed, how it works, and how to actually do it. I'll also share tips for clever variations, including a stockinette version.

length: 1 hour

skill level: Advanced beginner.

students will need: scrap light-colored medium-weight yarn and a 4-5mm/US #6-8 circular needle, a removable stitch marker

Shawl Skills: Easy Starts and Finishes

description: Shawls are very popular knitting projects, and there are patterns for all skill levels and tastes. This session focuses on key techniques to make shawl projects even more fun: we'll demystify the garter tab start, share techniques for stretchy bind offs and learn about no-fuss solutions for finishing, blocking (no special equipment needed!) and weaving in ends.

skill level: Advanced beginner.

length: 2 hours

students will need: scrap light-colored medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles to work through some small swatches

Shawl Shapes 101

This class explains key shawl shapes, and how to make them your own with your choice of yarn and custom design details. We'll talk about which shapes work best if you want to maximize size, if you want to work with multiple colors, or if you've only got a limited amount of yarn to use up. We'll share some tips for solving key shawl knitting challenges like tidy edges, stretchy bind offs, and how to handle the issue of blocking. Students finish the class with a set of pattern templates and the confidence and knowledge to start customizing and creating their own designs.

skill level: advanced beginner

length: 2 hours

students will need: scrap light-colored medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles to work through some small swatches

Shawl Shapes - 201

description: A deeper dive into shawl design and customization. We'll talk about more unusual shapes, and a variety of ways to adjust them. We'll discuss the effects of changing the placement of increases and decreases, the use of short rows for changing the look, shape and direction; we'll review how different fabrics can affect the finished project. Students finish the class with a set of pattern templates and tools to start getting creative.

skill level: intermediate knitters must have made a few shawls

length: 2 hours

students will need: scrap light-colored medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles to work through some small swatches

Shawl Design Deep Dive: Create Your Own Perfect Shawl
This is a combination of the two Shawl Shapes classes, run as two sessions to allow for experimentation between.
description: For adventurous knitters looking to expand their skills, and get creative! This class explains a variety key shawl shapes, and how to make them your own with stitch patterns and custom design details. We'll share tips for shawl knitting: stretchy cast ons and bind offs, and increase and edging options for decorative and functional purposes. We'll talk about yarn choices and fabrics, how to use multiple colors, and stitch patterns that work for variegated yarns. We'll discuss the effects of changing the placement of increases and decreases, the use of short rows for changing the look, shape and direction; we'll review how different fabrics can affect the finished project. Students finish the class with a set of pattern templates and the confidence and knowledge to start customizing and creating their own designs.
skill level: knitters must have made a few shawls, and have some lace skill.
length: two 2-hour sessions
materials required: scrap light-colored medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles, paper and pencil; optionally, have on hand yarn they wish to use, patterns for any designs you want to adapt or alter, stitch patterns they wish to use, sketches or notes on design ideas

Next Steps in Lace Knitting
description: For knitters who have successfully worked one or two lace patterns, this class focuses on building lace knitting confidence and skills. We'll talk about more advanced stitchwork like double yarnovers, nupps and faggoting stitches, and knitted-on borders. In class, we work through a number of different types of lace stitches. Along the way, I'll share tips on preventing mistakes, and demonstrate how to fix them without unravelling! I'll provide an overview of different shawl shapings and constructions. And we'll spend some time on answering frequently asked questions, and trouble-shooting.
skill level: intermediate; knitters should have some lace experience
length: 2 hours
students will need: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles - straight or short circular, light-colored medium weight scrap yarn

The Pi Shawl
description: The circular Pi shawl is a fabulous and fascinating project, and it's a great way to expand your lace knitting skills. It's also very easy to customize, and works well with any weight of yarn. Use one of our patterns, or create your own one-of-a-kind lace piece. If you've got a favourite lace stitch pattern, bring it, and I'll show you how to use it in your own design. I'll demonstrate the magical circular beginning – and some easier alternatives, and demonstrate several clever and easy finishes, including the no-cast-off, blocking-friendly crochet edging.
skill level: advanced beginner; knitters should be confident working in the round, increasing and decreasing; lace experience not necessary.
length: 2 hours

OTHER SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES
Short Row Savvy

description: "Wrap & Turn" is not a dance move, it's a fabulous way to create shapes with your knitting. Short rows are used in some sock heels, in shawls to create curves and in garments for bust shaping. In this class we'll discuss five common methods of working short rows (and hiding them, just as important!): wrap and turn, yarnover, Japanese, German, and Shadow. We'll also touch on how to change one method for another in a pattern.

skill level: intermediate suitable for knitters just starting with short rows

length: 2 hours

students will need: scrap light-colored medium-weight yarn and 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles, 8 removable stitch markers or small safety pins

Better Edges

description: Struggling with too-tight edges? Can't get your sock or mittens on? Garment necklines too tight? This session will show you key techniques for ensuring stretchy edges: a variety of flexible cast ons, some very helpful bind offs, and tips for making them easier and better. (You'll never run out of tail on your long tail cast on again!) We'll also talk about how to make the side edges of your pieces better, whether for one-piece items like scarves, or for pieces that are to be sewn up.

skill level: advanced beginner/intermediate; knitters should be confident with knit, purl, cast on and bind off

length: 2 hours

students will need: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and scrap yarn in a light color

Casting on & Binding Off

description: A deep dive into starts and ends; we'll cover key ways to cast on and bind off your knitting, highlighting both good general-purpose methods, and speciality methods and when you might use them. We'll talk about how to create stretch when you need it, and how to stop it when you don't, and give tips to help you decide what version to use if the pattern isn't specific Along the way we'll provide tips like how to ensure you never run out of yarn for your long-tail cast on, and how a crochet hook can change your life.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitter should be confident with knit and purl

length: 2 hours

students will need: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and scrap yarn in a light color; a crochet hook in a similar size

Increase & Decreases

description: A deep dive into shaping methods, we'll cover key ways to add and take away stitches in your knitting. We'll talk about decorative and visible methods, and methods that hide; we'll talk about left-and right-leaning, and when and why it's important to mirror and pair them. Along the way we'll share tricks to ensure you will never again need to look up M1R and M1L, give tips to help you decide what version to use if the pattern isn't specific – and discuss why a neutral increase is often your best choice.

skill level: advanced beginner - knitter should be confident with knit and purl

students will need: 4-5mm/US #6-8 needles and scrap yarn in a light color

Steeking

description: It may well be the scariest thing you can do with your knitting... taking a pair of scissors to it! Steeking – cutting a piece of knitting – is on many knitters' "bucket lists", and this class is any easy way to take the fear out of it. We'll talk about the hows and whys, discussing different methods of reinforcement, edging and finishing. Whether you're a keen colorwork knitter looking to take your skills to the next level, or just curious what the fuss is about, this class explains it all!

skill level: intermediate; colorwork and garment experience helpful but not required

length: 2 hours

students should bring: There is homework for this class. Details will be provided.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS
Custom Fit Mittens
description: Winter is coming! It's never too early in the year to prep for the cold weather. We'll show you how to create a custom mitten – regular or fingerless! - for any hand, and any yarn. Use up your stash and keep your friends and family warm. Along the way we'll share tips for making hand-mittens as warm and possible – from yarn choice to lining strategies, and help you deal with problem areas like ill-fitting or holey thumbs.
skill level: intermediate – knitters should ideally have made a pair of mittens or two
length: 2 hours

No-Pattern Custom Fit Hats
description: Make a hat for any head, with any yarn in your stash. We'll teach you how to work a top-down hat to fit any head, without a swatch! We'll show you how to customize the style and fit – work to the length you want, make it slouchy or fitted, fold-over cuff or beanie-style, add custom ribbings and cuff patterns, work with different colors. Whether you want to make a quick gift or use up your stash, or free yourself from patterns, this class will make you a better and more powerful hat knitter.
skill level: Suitable for knitters who have experience working in the round.
length: two 2-hour sessions
for the class, students need: the measurement of the head you want to fit; any yarn you want to use and the following needles: DPNs and 16 inch circular in the size recommended for the yarn, removable and standard stitch markers. For fingering weight/sock yarn, you need approximately 300m, for bring 250m, for worsted weight or thicker, 150m.
to complete the project students will also need: a 16 inch circular 2 sizes smaller than the working needle. Also have a stitch marker, scrap yarn in a similar weight and a blunt-ended darning needle.

DESIGN, PATTERN WRITING & TECHNICAL EDITING
Pattern Writing
description: You've designed a great piece, and now it's time to write up the pattern to share. Whether you want to self-publish or submit to a publication, this class will show you how to write up a clear and easy-to-follow pattern that works for any knitter. I will discuss sizing and fit, addressing grading and size ranges. I'll share secrets for handling pattern stitches, written and charted. I'll talk about charting software & solutions, and provide tips for creating easy-to-use charts. And I'll share with you the three key tricks to make sure both knitters and editors love you!
skill level: intermediate, aspiring designer
length: a single 2-hour session providers a higher-level overview, two 2-hour sessions provides a deeper dive

Introduction to Design
description: For adventurous knitters who are interested in designing their own garments and accessories, and publishing their own patterns. We'll discuss how to approach a design project, from a concept and yarn to a finished item and a complete pattern that anyone else can follow. We'll share brilliant and math-reducing shortcuts for creating your own designs using existing templates. We'll talk about grading, and yarn choices, and provide strategies for ensuring your design appeals to as broad an audience as possible. We'll also talk about the process around designing: yarn support, submitting to publications, working with technical editors and test knitters. We'll review key questions about copyright to ensure that you're always in the clear. And we'll spend some time on writing up your pattern for publication, and how to ensure that it's easy to understand and useful for knitters and magazine editors alike.
skill level: intermediate, aspiring designer
length: a single 2-hour session providers a higher-level overview, two 2-hour sessions provides a deeper dive

students <u>will need</u>: paper, pencil, a tape measure and a calculator/app

Introduction To Technical Editing

<u>description</u>: Interested in what a technical editor does? Thinking of expanding your skillset and product offerings? The technical editor is a vital part of the pattern publication process, helping designers turn their notes and outlines into patterns ready for publication. Training in technical editing also makes you a better teacher and pattern writer, enhancing your understanding of how patterns work and how to read and write them.

This introductory-level session gets you started down the path. We'll explain the role of the technical editor in the pattern development and publication process. We'll dive deep into the different types of reviews required: language, numbers and usability. And we'll explain the value of the pattern style sheet: what it includes, how to establish one, and how to edit a pattern to meet specific requirements.

<u>skill level</u>: experienced

<u>length</u>: a single 2-hour session providers a higher-level overview, two 2-hour sessions provides a deeper dive