

ANTHROPOLOGY 2285G-650

Clothing and Culture: The Anthropology of Fashion

Department of Anthropology

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2022

Version date: January 3, 2022

Instructor: Christine Kennedy (she/her)

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Mode of Delivery: This course is conducted online. It is *asynchronous*, meaning that students will be provided with a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, although there may be tasks that must be completed by specific times.

Credit value: 0.5

Requisites:

Antirequisite: Anthropology 2293F/G taken in 2015-16.

Prerequisite: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Land Acknowledgment:

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples. The local First Nations communities are the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, the Oneida Nation of the Thames, and the Munsee-Delaware Nation.

Course Description:

In North America, the way we dress is often considered as a form of self-expression. However, as we will see, dressing is not simply an individual endeavor or done solely for practical purposes, but it is shaped by wider cultural, social, and political-economic contexts. This course will focus on the anthropological study of clothing, dress, and fashion. We will critically examine the meaning of clothing, the role it plays in the formation of identities (e.g., clothing as a marker of ethnicity, gender, and religion), and the ways it is used to negotiate and resist power inequalities. We will further discuss ethical and environmental concerns in regards to clothing production and consumption, focusing on issues such as working conditions in the garment industry, second-hand clothing, and questions of copying and appropriation.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Challenge the assumption that clothing, dress, and fashion are trivial matters to study.
- Recognize the contributions anthropology has made to the study of dress and fashion.
- Examine the role clothing plays in creating and maintaining social identities as well as in responding to socio-political changes.
- Discuss social issues concerning the production and consumption of clothing.
- Research and synthesize scholarly publications.

Course Materials:

Required readings (such as journal articles and book chapters) will be accessible through the "Course Readings" feature on the OWL course site.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- Discussions #1 – 15%
- Discussions #2 – 15%
- Quizzes – 10%
- Proposal (optional) – bonus marks, due February 14, 2022
- Research Paper – 40%, due March 28, 2022
- Final Exam – 20%, scheduled during the exam period

Discussions

Discussions #1 (weeks 1 to 6) – 15%

Discussions #2 (weeks 7 to 12) – 15%

The purpose of the discussions is for students to engage with the course readings and with other students' thoughts. Discussions will usually take place in "Forums" on the OWL course site. You are required to make contributions to the discussions of **at least 3 weeks in each of the two periods** (first period: weeks 1 to 6; second period: weeks 7 to 12); at least 1 contribution per week. If you contribute more frequently than required, I will count the best 3 contributions for the respective overall discussion mark and you may also receive bonus marks. You are not allowed to submit more than 4 contributions per week.

The contributions can be responses to questions posted by the instructor or other students, and you can also start discussions. Your contributions should be thoughtful, well-supported, clear, and coherent, no longer than 2 paragraphs (per contribution), but contain more than 2 or 3 sentences. Your contributions should engage with the course readings (and films). I am looking for evidence that you have read, understood, and thought about the course texts.

Contributions are **due Friday** of a given week, but I will accept submissions **until 5:00pm (EST) the following Monday**. Exceptions: Contributions to the discussions of week 1 are due Friday, January 21, 2022; and contributions to the discussions of week 12 (due Friday, April 8, 2022) will be accepted until 5:00pm (EST) on Saturday, April 9, 2022. There are no penalties for late submissions. It is imperative that you submit your contribution/s within 3 days if you miss the Friday due date (except in cases where students have been granted academic consideration).

More information on the discussion contributions, including grading, bonus marks, and mark reductions, will be posted on the OWL course site.

Quizzes – 10%

There will be 5 quizzes (worth 2.5% each) throughout the duration of the course, in weeks 2, 4, 7, 9 and 11. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Each quiz will be based on material covered in a two-week period, including video lectures, written lesson information, course readings, documentaries and so on. Exception: Quiz #3 will be based on material covered over three weeks (i.e., weeks 5, 6 and 7).

Each quiz will be open for 7 days (from Sunday to Sunday). Exception: Quiz #3 will open Monday, February 28, 2022 and close Sunday, March 6, 2022 at 11:55pm (EST). The quiz with the lowest score will be dropped from the overall quiz mark; consequently, your overall quiz mark will **not** be negatively affected if you miss 1 quiz.

Proposal – optional

The objectives of the proposal are to get you to start working on your research paper early and to give you an opportunity to receive feedback. You are asked to present the topic of your research paper and the issues or questions you plan to examine. You are further required to provide a preliminary bibliography of **at least 4 anthropological publications** that are **not** course readings (i.e., articles in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books, and/or book chapters, published between 2001 and 2022). You may also list course readings you plan to use in the research paper (see the section “Research Paper” below). The proposal should be about 200 words in length, double spaced, excluding the bibliography.

The proposal is due **February 14, 2022 (11:55pm EST)**. You can receive **up to 2 bonus marks**, depending on the quality of your proposal, which will be added to your research paper mark. If you submit a proposal after February 14, 2022, you will **not** receive any bonus marks but you will still be given feedback. Submit your proposal via “Assignments” on the OWL course site. A detailed assignment outline (including format guidelines) will be posted on the OWL course site.

Research Paper – 40%

In this research paper, you are asked to examine a specific topic within the contents of this course. The research paper should be 1,500 to 1,700 words in length, excluding the reference list. This assignment is an exercise in critical thinking, in developing a thesis/a main argument, in synthesizing information from scholarly sources, and in properly acknowledging the ideas and data of other authors.

You are expected to use **at least 4 anthropological publications** that are **not** course readings (i.e., articles in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books, and/or book chapters, published between 2001 and 2022) and **at least 3 course readings**. As course readings count those journal articles and book chapters listed in the course outline. You are **not** allowed to substitute a lecture, a film, a videoclip, and an article/book/book chapter mentioned on a lesson page or in a lecture for a course reading. You are also **not** allowed to substitute a non-anthropological source for an anthropological publication.

The research paper is due **March 28, 2022 (11:55pm EST)**. There is a one-day “grace period”: If you submit the paper by March 29, 2022, no marks will be reduced. The penalty for late

submission of the research paper, starting March 30, 2022, is **2% per weekday**. I will not accept papers submitted after April 4, 2022 (11:55pm EST). Submit your research paper via "Assignments" on the OWL course site. A detailed assignment outline (including format guidelines) will be posted on the OWL course site.

Final Exam – 20%

The final exam will be a take-home response paper (about 900 words in length), which is due within the exam period (date TBA). The exam question will be released three days prior to the due date.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:

In order to pass an essay course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

In order to pass this essay course, students need to submit the written assignments (i.e., the research paper and contributions to the discussions) and receive a passing grade on the research paper and either discussions #1 or discussions #2.

Academic Statements and Policies:

Statement on Seeking Academic Consideration:

Missed assessments (e.g., papers, quizzes, tests, midterms etc.) require formal [academic considerations](#) (typically self-reported absences and/or academic counselling). No academic consideration will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after the due date of an assignment or quiz. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds. Please consult [university policies on procedures for seeking academic consideration](#). Students who are granted academic considerations will receive extensions on assignment submission deadlines and/or be permitted to write make-up quizzes.

Statement on Plagiarism:

You need to complete assignments (i.e., the research paper and contributions to the discussions), quizzes, and the final exam by yourself. You are **not** allowed to receive aid on assignments, quizzes, and the final exam from other persons or to give aid to other students.

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. **Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.** See the link below (in the section "Institutional Statements and Policies") for more details on the penalties for plagiarism. All assignments will be evaluated using Turnitin in the Assignments portal.

Institutional Statements and Policies:

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).

Course Specific Statements:

Statement on Recording Meetings:

Students may **not** record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours and virtual meetings, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Statement on Email:

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I endeavour to reply to messages within 24 hours (Monday to Friday until 5:00pm EST). I will respond to emails sent on Friday after 5:00pm (EST) and on the weekend on Monday of the following week. I am also happy to talk with you face to face via Zoom. Please contact me to set up a date and time for a Zoom session.

Statement on Technology:

Because this is an online course, it is imperative that students have the proper equipment (computers, laptops etc.) and internet connections. Students must familiarize themselves with the OWL course site and its different features. Non-working computers, computer programs, internet connections etc. or lacking the knowledge of how to use OWL will **not** be accepted as valid excuses for having missed assignment deadlines. If you experience technical difficulties or have technical questions regarding OWL, please contact the [Helpdesk](#), Western Technology Services and not the instructor.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1 (January 10 - 16): Introduction to the Anthropology of Clothing, Dress and Fashion

Hansen, Karen Tranberg. 2015. "Anthropology of Dress and Fashion." In *Bibliographical Guides*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. <https://www.bloomsburyfashioncentral.com/products/berg-fashion-library/article/bibliographical-guides/anthropology-of-dress-and-fashion>.

Week 2 (January 17 - 23): Studying Dress: Concepts and Theoretical Approaches

Baizerman, Suzanne, Joanne B. Eicher, and Catherine Cerny. 1993. "Eurocentrism in the Study of Ethnic Dress." *Dress* 20: 19-32.

Margiotti, Margherita. 2013. "Clothing Sociality: Materiality and the Everyday Among the Kuna of Panama." *Journal of Material Culture* 18 (4): 389-407.

Quiz #1

Week 3 (January 24 - 30): Dress and Social Identities

Theodossopoulos, Dimitrios. 2012. "Indigenous Attire, Exoticization, and Social Change: Dressing and Undressing among the Emberá of Panama." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (N.S.)* 18 (3): 591-612.

Cummings, Maggie. 2013. "Looking Good: The Cultural Politics of the Island Dress for Young Women in Vanuatu." *The Contemporary Pacific* 25 (1): 33-65.

Week 4 (January 31 - February 6): Dress and Social Identities (Cont.)

- Bennett, Joyce. 2015. "Traje's Future: Gendered Paths in Guatemala." *Native American and Indigenous Studies* 2 (1): 67-89.
- Khabeer, Su'ad Abdul. 2017. "Muslim Dandies." *Anthropology News* 58 (5): 6-9.

Quiz #2

Week 5 (February 7 - 13): Veiling

- Rasmussen, Susan J. 2013. "Re-Casting the Veil: Situated Meanings of Covering." *Culture and Psychology* 19 (2): 237-258.
- Tarlo, Emma. 2007. "Islamic Cosmopolitanism: The Sartorial Biographies of Three Muslim Women in London." *Fashion Theory* 11 (2/3): 143-172.

Week 6 (February 14 - 18): Clothing and Colonialism

- Hansen, Karen Tranberg. 2010. "Colonialism and Imperialism." In *The Berg Companion to Fashion*, edited by Valerie Steele, 155-159. Oxford: Berg.
- Tarlo, Emma. 2010. "British Attitudes to Indian and European Dress." In *The Fashion History Reader: Global Perspectives*, edited by Giorgio Riello and Peter McNeil, 386-398. London: Routledge.

February 14: Proposal due (optional)

Reading Week (February 19 - 27): No Class

Week 7 (February 28 - March 6): Dress, Power and Resistance

- Velásquez Nimatuj, Irma Alicia. 2011. "Transnationalism and Maya Dress." In *The Guatemala Reader: History, Culture, Politics*, edited by Greg Grandin, Deborah T. Levenson, and Elizabeth Oglesby, 523-531. Durham: Duke University Press.

Quiz #3

Week 8 (March 7 - 13): Garment Production

- Karim, Lamia. 2014. "Disposable Bodies." *Anthropology Now* 6 (1): 52-63.
- De Neve, Geert. 2014. "Fordism, Flexible Specialization and CSR: How Indian Garment Workers Critique Neoliberal Labour Regimes." *Ethnography* 15 (2): 184-207.

Week 9 (March 14 - 20): Second-Hand Clothing

- Hansen, Karen Tranberg. 2004. "Helping or Hindering?: Controversies around the International Second-Hand Clothing Trade." *Anthropology Today* 20 (4): 3-9.
- Norris, Lucy. 2008. "Recycling and Reincarnation: The Journeys of Indian Saris." *Mobilities* 3 (3): 415-436.

Quiz #4

Week 10 (March 21 - 27): Fashion, Globally

- Mayer, Tara. 2018. "From Craft to Couture: Contemporary Indian Fashion in Historical Perspective." *South Asian Popular Culture* 16 (2-3): 183-198.

Kastner, Kristin. 2019. "Fashioning Dakar's Urban Society: Sartorial Code-Mixing in Senegal." *Sociologus* 69 (2): 167-188.

Week 11 (March 28 - April 3): Copying and Appropriation

Montgomery, Lindsay M. 2017. "Native by Design." *Sapiens* (January 10).

www.sapiens.org/culture/native-american-design/.

Thomas, Kedron. 2012. "Intellectual Property Law and the Ethics of Imitation in Guatemala."

Anthropological Quarterly 85 (3): 785-815.

March 28: Research Paper due

Quiz #5

Week 12 (April 4 - 8): Review

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