

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 2285B/650: Clothing and Culture: The Anthropology of Fashion

PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2027

Date: May 28, 2026

Instructor and Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Christine Kennedy

Method of delivery: Online (asynchronous).

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

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, impacts of second-hand clothing imports, and copying and appropriation.

A full course outline, including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings, will be available on the course site in OWL Brightspace before the first day of class.

Course Materials

All required readings will be accessible through the Course Readings tool on the course site in OWL Brightspace, at no cost to students.

Evaluation

** Please note that assessments may be subject to change.*

Grades will be based on the following:

- 2 Tests: multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and written-response questions (the tests will take place online in mid-February and mid-March)
- Discussion Contributions (throughout the term)
- Assignment: 1 out of 2 (assignments will be due in late February and early April)
- Final Exam: multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and written-response questions (the final exam will take place online during the April exam period)