ANTHROPOLOGY 2285G-650
Clothing and Culture: The Anthropology of Fashion

COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2020
Distance Studies

Instructor: Dr. Christine Kennedy
Office: n/a
Office hours: To be announced on the OWL course site.
Email: csuck2@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistants: Please refer to the course site on OWL.

Territorial acknowledgement: Western University is located on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, and the Leni-Lunaape peoples. The local First Nations communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee-Delaware Nation.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Calendar Course Description:
This course focuses on the anthropological study of clothing and fashion. It will critically examine the meaning of clothing and the role it plays in the formation of identities and the negotiation of power inequalities. It will further explore the social and political-economic processes that influence clothing production and consumption.

Antirequisites: 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.
Course Syllabus:
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:

- Examine the role clothing plays in creating and negotiating identities in various social-cultural contexts and how larger processes effect changes in dress.

- Discuss the political-economic and social factors that influence the production and consumption of clothing in a globally interconnected world.

- Recognize local people as agents who actively respond to and resist unequal power relations as producers and consumers of clothing.

- Analyze and synthesize scholarly publications in written formats.

Course Materials:
The required readings (i.e., journal articles and book chapters) can be accessed through the OWL course site (click on “Course Readings”).

You are also asked to watch a number of films throughout the term, which you can access through the OWL course site.
Evaluation:

**Discussion Forum Postings**

*Discussion Forum Postings #1 (weeks 1 to 6) – 20%*

*Discussion Forum Postings #2 (weeks 8 to 13) – 20%*

The purpose of the online discussions is to make the learning process interactive and collaborative: The discussions provide us with the opportunity to learn from and interact with each other. Every student must participate in the forums on the OWL course site.

All students are required to make at least 2 substantial contributions to the discussion forums each week. The contributions should be well-developed comments and questions, not only 2 or 3 sentences, but no longer than 2 paragraphs (per contribution). I am looking for thoughtful, well-supported, clear and coherent postings. Your postings should provide evidence that you have read, understood and thought about the book chapters and journal articles. Contributions may include: comments on the readings and films; discussions of the concepts and theoretical approaches presented in the readings; questions that you think might be useful for reflecting on the arguments made by the authors; and critical reflections on your experiences with issues discussed in this course.

Your contributions can be original postings and/or responses to other participants’ questions. “Original postings” refers to postings that are not branches from other messages, and they should include questions to facilitate discussions.

You are encouraged to make contributions throughout the week. You should have completed your weekly postings by **Friday 6:00pm (EST)**; exception: postings for week 1 are due Friday, January 17, 2020. There is no penalty for late submission of postings. However, forums will be locked 3 days after the respective due dates at 7:00pm EST; exception: the forum of week 13 will be locked on Friday, April 3, 2020 (at 7:00pm EST). Once a forum is locked, you cannot make any contributions to that forum. It is therefore imperative that you submit postings within 3 days if you miss a due date (except in cases where academic consideration has been granted). You are not allowed to submit more than 5 postings per forum.

Your mark for the forum postings will be based on both the quality and quantity of your online participation. You will receive two marks for the discussion forum postings: the first mark (evaluating postings for weeks 1 to 6) in week 8, and the second mark (evaluating postings for weeks 8 to 13) after week 13.
I will count the best 10 contributions for each mark. Consequently, your mark will not be negatively affected if you miss 2 postings in each period.

Proposal – optional

In this proposal, 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 5 anthropological publications (articles in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books, and/or book chapters, published between 1999 and 2020). You are allowed to use non-anthropological publications as well as class readings and films but they count in addition to the 5 external anthropological sources. The proposal should be about 200 words in length, double spaced, excluding the bibliography.

The objectives of this proposal are to get you to start working on your research paper early and to give you an opportunity to receive feedback.

The proposal is due on February 12, 2020 (11:59pm EST). You can receive up to 2 bonus points, depending on the quality of your proposal, which will be added to your research paper mark. If you submit a proposal after February 12, you will not receive any bonus points but you will still be given feedback.

A detailed assignment outline (including format guidelines) will be posted on the OWL course site.

Research Paper – 30%

In this paper, you are asked to examine a specific topic within the contents of this course. You are expected to use at least 5 anthropological publications (articles in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books, and/or book chapters, published between 1999 and 2020). You are allowed to use non-anthropological publications as well as class readings and films but they count in addition the 5 external anthropological sources. The paper is expected to 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, wording and data of other authors.

The paper is due on March 23, 2020 (11:59pm EST). The penalty for late submission of the paper is 2% per weekday. I will not accept papers submitted after March 30, 2020 (11:59pm EST). Submit an electronic copy of your paper via “Assignments” on the OWL course site.
A detailed assignment outline (including format guidelines) will be posted on the OWL course site.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com.

Final Exam – 30%

The final exam will take place during the designated exam period for this course. The exam will consist of short essay questions. It will cover all the course material from weeks 1 to 13. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during the final exam.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass this essay course, students need to submit and receive a passing grade on the research paper. Students also need to submit discussion forum postings and receive a passing grade on either forum postings #1 or forum postings #2.

Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Statement on Seeking Academic Consideration

No academic consideration will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment’s due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism

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.
**Statement on Email**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours (Monday to Friday until 5:00pm EST), send your message a second time. I will respond to emails sent on weekends early in the next week. I am also happy to talk with you via skype. Please contact me to set up a date and time for a skype session.

**Statement on Technology**

Because this is a Distance Studies online course, it is imperative that students have the proper equipment (computers, laptops etc.) and internet connection. 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. Helpdesk

**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 Calendar. Western’s academic policies.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

**Week 1 (January 6 - 10): Introduction to the Anthropology of Clothing, Dress and Fashion**

**Week 2 (January 13 - 17): Theorizing Clothing and Dress**


**January 17: Discussion Forum Postings for weeks 1 and 2 due**

**Week 3 (January 20 - 24): Dress and Social Identities**


**Film:** *Threads of Life: Hemp and Gender in a Hmong Village* (1994)

**January 24: Discussion Forum Postings for week 3 due**

**Week 4 (January 27 - 31): Clothing and Gender**


**Film:** *Somewhere in Between* (2009)

**January 31: Discussion Forum Postings for week 4 due**

**Week 5 (February 3 - 7): Veiling**


**February 7: Discussion Forum Postings for week 5 due**
Week 6 (February 10 - 14): Clothing and Colonialism


February 12: PROPOSAL DUE (optional)

February 14: Discussion Forum Postings for week 6 due

Week 7 (February 17 - 21): Reading Week

No readings and no postings due

Week 8 (February 24 - 28): Clothing, Power and Resistance


February 28: Discussion Forum Postings for week 8 due

Week 9 (March 2 - 6): Garment Production


Film: Clothes to Die For (2014)

March 6: Discussion Forum Postings for week 9 due
Week 10 (March 9 - 13): Second-Hand Clothing


March 13: Discussion Forum Postings for week 10 due

Week 11 (March 16 - 20): Fashion, Globally


March 20: Discussion Forum Postings for week 11 due

Week 12 (March 23 - 27): Copying and Appropriation


March 23: RESEARCH PAPER DUE

March 27: Discussion Forum Postings for week 12 due

Week 13 (March 30 - April 3): Review

April 3: Discussion Forum Postings for week 13 due