

ANTHROPOLOGY 2285G-650

Clothing and Culture: The Anthropology of Fashion

Department of Anthropology

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2023

Version date: January 4, 2023

Instructor:

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Course details:

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:

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

Prerequisites: None.

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.
- Distinguish the arguments and perspectives of different authors presented in a text.
- 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:

- Discussion Contributions #1 – 15%
- Discussion Contributions #2 – 15%
- Quizzes – 10%
- Proposal (optional) – bonus marks, due February 28, 2023
- Research Paper – 40%, due March 30, 2023
- Final Exam – 20%, scheduled during the exam period April 13 to 30, 2023

The evaluation methods described in this course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Discussion Contributions

Discussion Contributions #1 (weeks 1 to 6) – 15%

Discussion Contributions #2 (weeks 7 to 12) – 15%

The purpose of the discussions is for students to engage with the course readings and other students' thoughts. Discussions will usually take place in "Forums" on the OWL course site. Students are required to make substantial 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). If you contribute more frequently than required, I will count the best 3 contributions in a period for the respective overall discussion mark and you may receive bonus marks. You are not allowed to submit more than 3 contributions per week.

The contributions can be responses to questions and comments posted by the instructor and other students. You can also start conversations. The 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 need to 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 20, 2023; contributions to the discussions of week 12 are due Thursday, April 6, 2023 and submissions for that week will be accepted until Monday, April 10, 2023 at 5:00pm (EST). There are no penalties for late submissions. It is imperative that you submit your contributions within 3 days if you miss a due date. Please also see the section "Statement on Seeking Academic Consideration" below.

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. Each quiz will be open for 7 days, from Sunday of the previous week (at 11:00am EST) to Sunday of the week it is scheduled for (at 11:55pm EST). Exception: Quiz #3 will open on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 12:05am (EST) and close on Sunday, March 5, 2023 at 11:55pm (EST). It should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete a quiz; however, all students will have 1 hour to do so.

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, journal articles and book chapters, documentaries and so on. Exception: Quiz #3 will be based on material covered over three weeks.

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. Please also see the section "Statement on Seeking Academic Consideration" below.

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 2002 and 2023). 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 Tuesday, **February 28, 2023 (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 28, 2023, you will be given feedback but you will not receive any bonus marks (no exceptions). 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. A list of possible topics will be posted on the OWL course site. The research paper should be 1,600

to 1,800 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 7 anthropological publications**. **At least 4** of them need to be publications that are **not** course readings (i.e., articles in peer-reviewed journals, scholarly books, and/or book chapters, published between 2002 and 2023); the other publications can be course readings. As course readings count those journal articles and book chapters listed in the course outline. You can draw on non-anthropological publications, documentaries, and lectures but they cannot be used as substitutes for the 7 required anthropological publications.

The research paper is due Thursday, **March 30, 2023 (11:55pm EST)**. There is a three-day "grace period": If you submit your essay by Sunday, April 2, 2023 (11:59pm EST), no marks will be reduced. The penalty for late submission of the research paper, starting Monday, April 3, 2023, is **2 marks per weekday**. I will not accept papers submitted after Thursday, April 6, 2023 (except in cases where academic consideration has been granted). 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. Please also see the section "Statement on Seeking Academic Consideration" below.

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 writing of the response to the final exam question should take no more than 3 hours. All students will have 72 hours, after the exam opens, to submit their responses.

Academic Statements and Policies:

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 discussion contributions) and receive a passing grade on the research paper and either discussion contributions #1 or discussion contributions #2.

Statements on Seeking Academic Consideration:

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade: For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, instructors are empowered to grant academic considerations without referring students to Academic Counselling.

If you miss a quiz or a discussion contribution due to an unanticipated problem, please contact the instructor within 3 days of the missed assessment deadline and explain why you missed the quiz or discussion contribution. Remember: Your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your overall quiz mark, and you can miss three discussion contributions in each of the two periods without negative impact on your overall discussion marks. If your request for academic consideration is granted, you will be eligible to write a make-up quiz or receive an extension on the submission deadline of a discussion contribution. If you miss the make-up quiz or the extended submission deadline of a

discussion contribution, no matter the reasons, you will **not** be given the opportunity to write another make-up quiz or receive another extension.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade: For work worth 10% or more of the final course grade, students need to contact and provide supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of their Faculty of Registration.

In this course, this regulation applies to the research paper and final exam. If your request for academic consideration is granted, you will be eligible to receive an extension on the submission deadline of the research paper or write a make-up final exam. No academic consideration will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assessment's due date. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students need to complete assignments (i.e., the research paper and discussion contributions), quizzes, and the final exam by themselves. They 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.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.

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 assessment 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 9 - 15): 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 16 - 22): 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 23 - 29): 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.

Kimura, Tets, William Peterson, and Shih-Ying Lin. 2022. "Fashion Nationalism in Asia: A Comparative Study of the Philippines' *Terno* and Taiwan's *Qipao*." *Asian Anthropology* 21 (2): 100-120.

Week 4 (January 30 - February 5): 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 6 - 12): 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 13 - 17): Clothing and Colonialism

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.

Comaroff, John L., and Jean Comaroff. 1997. "Fashioning the Colonial Subject: The Empire's Old Clothes." In *Of Revelation and Revolution: Volume Two – The Dialectics of Modernity on a South African Frontier*, 218-273. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Reading Week (February 18 - 26): No Class

Week 7 (February 27 - March 5): 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.

February 28: Proposal due (optional)

Quiz #3

Week 8 (March 6 - 12): 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 13 - 19): Second-Hand Clothing

Hansen, Karen Tranberg. 2004. "Helping or Hindering?: Controversies around the International Second-Hand Clothing Trade." *Anthropology Today* 20 (4): 3-9.

Valk, Julie. 2020. "The Smell of Shōwa: Time, Materiality and Regimes of Value in Japan's Second-Hand Kimono Industry." *Journal of Material Culture* 25 (2): 240-256.

Quiz #4

Week 10 (March 20 - 26): 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.

Week 11 (March 27 - April 2): Rethinking the Study of Fashion

Akou, Heather. 2022. "Beyond Listening: Systemic Transformation in Fashion Studies and Fashion Collections." *African Arts* 55 (2): 6-7.

Luvaas, Brent. 2017. "The Continuous Labor of Fashion." *Anthropology News* 58 (3): 10-13.

March 30: Research Paper due

Quiz #5

Week 12 (April 3 - 10): Review