ANTHROPOLOGY 2285G-650

Clothing and Culture: The Anthropology of Fashion

Department of Anthropology

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2023

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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: 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, second-hand clothing, and questions of copying and appropriation.

A detailed course outline, including specifics on assignments, a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings, and further course specific information will be available on the course’s OWL site before the first day of class.

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:

- Activities such as participation in discussion forums
- 5 Quizzes (biweekly)
- Proposal (about 200 words in length; due in mid-February)
- Research Paper (1,600 to 1,800 words in length; due at the end of March)
- Final Exam in the form of a take-home response paper (about 1,000 words; due during the December exam period)