

Department of Anthropology

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

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2025

Version date: August 7, 2024

Instructor and Course Details:

Dr. Christine Kennedy

Email: csuck2@uwo.ca

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

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, 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 site in OWL Brightspace before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

All required readings will be available via the "Course Readings" tool on the course site in OWL Brightspace.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- 2 Tests (multiple-choice questions and true-and-false questions; the first test will take place in early February, and second test will take place in mid-March)
- Assignments (responses to questions; 2 out of 3 assignment need to be completed; throughout the term)
- Participation in Lesson Activities (throughout the term)

- Final Exam (multiple-choice questions, true-and-false questions, and a short essay; the final exam will take place during the April exam period)

End