

Department of Anthropology

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

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2026

Date: June 18, 2025

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

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

Course Materials:

Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site in OWL Brightspace.

Evaluation:

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

- 2 Tests (multiple-choice questions and true-and-false questions; the first test will take place in mid-February, and the second test will take place in mid-March)
- Assignments (2 out of 3 required; assignments will be due in early February, mid-March and early April)
- Discussion Contributions (throughout the term)

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

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