

Department of Classical Studies
Course Outline
CS 9450B: DRESS AND THE BODY IN GRECO-ROMAN ANTIQUITY
Winter 2023



INSTRUCTOR: Kelly Olson (kolson2@uwo.ca)

OFFICE: Lawson Hall 3227 (661-2111 x 84525)

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, 4:00-5:00 PM or by appointment

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS: Fridays, 1:30-4:30, LAH 3220 (in-person)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Readings are on our OWL site: click on the 'course readings' button

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The body is articulated socially through clothing and ornament: these are what makes the human body culturally visible. This graduate seminar is designed to uncover the role played by dress and the body in the historical construction of ancient identity, and to consider fashion and material culture more generally as playing a fundamental role in the shaping of the past. We will examine dress and the body in Greek and Roman antiquity starting from a body of literary and artistic evidence. Topics such as the toga and *himation*, tattooing, 'barbaric' dress practices, the construction of clothing, color, dyes, and fabric, body ideals, and 'big hair' will be studied alongside modern theories of fashion and self-presentation.

NOTE FROM THE DEAN OF ARTS and HUMANITIES: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

ENROLLMENT RESTRICTIONS:

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Classical Studies, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program

PLAGIARISM: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS: Accommodation Policy

Staying healthy – physically and mentally – is an essential part of achieving your academic goals. There are many resources on campus available to help you maintain your health and wellness (start here: <http://wec.uwo.ca/> and <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>). Please contact the Graduate Chair if you have any concerns about health or wellness interfering with your studies.

If academic accommodation should become necessary at any point, students should contact their course instructor(s) and/or supervisor, as appropriate. Students should also contact the Graduate Chair in most cases, and especially if accommodation is needed for:

- more than one course
- more than one week
- any tests, exams, and/or assignments worth 10% or more of a final grade
- any program milestone (comprehensive exams, thesis, etc.)

In these cases, the Graduate Chair may request that a student work with Student Accessibility Services (<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>) to arrange a plan for accommodation (see SGPS Regulation 14: http://www.grad.uwo.ca/current_students/regulations/14.html).

ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION WESTERN (AEW):

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

Western has many services and programs that support the personal, physical, social and academic needs of students with disabilities. For more information and links to these services: <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/>

HEALTH/WELLNESS SERVICES: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- To become familiar with the main evidence (visual, literary, and archaeological) for ancient gender and clothing categories
- To become familiar with modern theories and definitions of fashion, the history of the study of dress, and with gender theory
- To become aware of the problems with and limitations of that evidence.
- To investigate modern reactions to, interpretations of, and preconceptions about that evidence.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:

- To develop critical, analytical and problem-solving skills through the writing of an essay and through the close analysis of ancient texts and artefacts in seminars.
- To gain a knowledge of the different types of evidence available for this area of ancient history, primarily the main literary texts and the archaeological evidence.
- To gain an appreciation of the historiographical and analytical skills needed to handle these sources.
- To gain an ability to use these different sources together to assess the main issues in the interpretation of ancient society.
- To develop and enhance skills in oral presentation through participation in seminars.
- To develop the skills necessary for conducting in-depth research.
- To develop an ability to discuss these issues in written work with coherent and logical arguments, clearly and correctly expressed.

GRADES:

Essay	40%
Presentation	20%
TWO 15 min article reviews (15% each)	30%
Questions on presentations:	5%
Class participation	5%
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	100%

This is a discussion-based seminar which will require participation from **all** students.

REPORTS AND ESSAYS:

- **Essays** should be 5000 words, and are due by **THURS APR 27th**.
- I encourage you to write the essay on a topic of interest to you (in consultation with me). Although we cover many topics pertinent to dress in ancient society in the class readings and discussion, some we simply do not have time to examine (e.g., dress in the ancient Near East or Egypt; dress in late antiquity).

- **Presentations** should be about 15-20 minutes in length (in other words, conference-paper length, or **8-10** double-spaced typed pages). You will choose a date for your presentation in the first week or two of classes; if you need to cancel or change your date **you must find a classmate willing to take your place.**
- You are asked to write down ONE-TWO questions for each of our student presentations and turn these into me after the presentation. You may of course ask one or both of the questions in class.
- Your essay should incorporate and address questions, suggestions, and comments raised during your presentation; thus, the essay and presentation are on the same topic.
- **Article reviews:** students are required to choose **TWO** of our readings in advance and prepare questions and comments for discussion in class (my own work may not be selected). You will choose your articles in the first week or two of classes; if you need to cancel or change your choices **you must find a classmate willing to take your place.**

COURSE OUTLINE:

Frid Jan 13: Introduction to course; sources for ancient dress; the history of ancient dress history; theories of fashion: cycles and structures; symbols and codes

Reading:

- Taylor, L. 2002. *The Study of Dress History*. Manchester: Manchester Univ. Press. 64-89.
- Edmondson, J. and A. Keith. 2008. From costume history to dress studies. In J. Edmondson and A. Keith (eds). *Roman Dress and the Fabrics of Roman Culture*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press: 1-20.
- Olson, K. 2021. Dress and classical studies. In Alicia Batten and K. Olson (eds) *Dress in Mediterranean Antiquity: Greeks, Romans, Jews, Christians*. London: Bloomsbury: 11-18.
- Harlow, M. 2005. Dress in the *Historia Augusta*: the Role of Dress in Historical Narrative. In Cleland *et al.* *The Clothed Body in the Ancient World*. London: Oxbow Books: 143-53.
- Breward, C. 1998. Cultures, identities, histories: fashioning a cultural approach to dress'. *Fashion Theory* 2 no. 4: 301-13.
- Harlow, M., and M-L Nosch. 2014. Weaving the threads: methodologies and textile and dress research for the Greek and Roman world – the state of the art and the case for cross-disciplinarity. In M. Harlow and M-L Nosch (eds). *Greek and Roman Textiles and Dress: An Interdisciplinary Anthology*. London: Oxbow Books: 1 -33.

Frid Jan 20: Ancient color and textiles

Reading:

- Brøns, C. 2021. The colors of ancient Greek dress. In Alicia Batten and K. Olson (eds) *Dress in Mediterranean Antiquity: Greeks, Romans, Jews, Christians*. London: Bloomsbury: 77-94.
- Cleland, L. 2005. The symbiosis of description: some reflections on fabric and colour in the Brauron inventories. In Cleland *et al.* *The Clothed Body in the Ancient World*. London: Oxbow Books: 87 - 95.
- Granger-Taylor, H. 1982. Weaving clothes to shape in the ancient world: the tunic and toga of the Arringatore. *Textile History* 13.1: 3-25.
- Bradley, M. 2009. *Colour and Meaning in Ancient Rome*. Cambridge University Press:

161- 188.

- Brøns, C. 2022. All that glitters is gold: golden textiles in the ancient Mediterranean. In C. Brøns *et al.* (eds). *Textiles in Ancient Mediterranean Iconography*. Oxford: Oxbow Books: 121-37.

PART ONE: Ancient Greece

Frid Jan 27: Masculine/feminine

Reading:

- Dalby, A. 2002. Levels of concealment: the dress of *hetaerae* and *pornai* in Greek texts. In L. Llewellyn Jones (ed). *Women's Dress in the Ancient Greek World*. London: The Classical Press of Wales: 111-124.
- Llewellyn Jones, L. 2002. A woman's view? Dress, eroticism, and the ideal female body in Athenian art. L. Llewellyn Jones (ed). *Women's Dress in the Ancient Greek World*. London: The Classical Press of Wales pages 171 -202.
- Lee, M. 2015. *Body, Dress, and Identity in Ancient Greece*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 89-126.
- Llewellyn-Jones, L. 2003. *Aphrodite's Tortoise: the Veiled Woman of Ancient Greece*. Swansea, Wales: Classical Press of Wales, 121-54.
- Medda, E. 2017. 'O saffron robe, to what pass have you brought me!': cross-dressing and theatrical illusion in Aristophanes' *Thesmophoriazousae*. In D. Campanile, *et al.*, (eds). *Transantiquity: Cross-Dressing and Transgender Dynamics in the Ancient World*. London and New York: Routledge: 137-51.

Frid Feb 3: Nudity

Reading:

- Bonfante, L. 1989. Nudity as a costume in Classical art. *American Journal of Archaeology* 93.4: 543-70.
- Stafford, E. G. 2005. Viewing and obscuring the female breast: glimpses of the ancient bra. In Cleland *et al.* *The Clothed Body in the Ancient World*. London: Oxbow Books: 96-110.
- Lee, M. 2015. *Body, Dress, and Identity in Ancient Greece*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 172-97.
- A. Stewart. 1997. *Art, Desire and the Body in Ancient Greece*. Cambridge University Press: 63-97.
- C. Mitchell Havelock. 1995. *The Aphrodite of Knidos and Her Successors*. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press: 9-37.

Frid Feb 10:

The un/democratic body

Reading:

- Cohen, B. 2001. Ethnic identity in democratic Athens and the visual vocabulary of male costume. In I. Malkin (ed). *Ancient Perceptions of Greek Ethnicity*. Washington, DC: Center for Hellenic Studies: 235-74.

- van Wees, H. 2005. Trailing tunics and sheepskin coats: dressing status in early Greece. In Cleland *et al.* (eds) *The Clothed Body in the Ancient World*. London: Oxbow Books: 44-51
- Miller, M. 1997. *Athens and Persia in the Fifth Century B.C.: A Study in Cultural Receptivity*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press: 153-187.

PART TWO: ANCIENT ROME

Frid Feb 17: Masculinity, femininity, effeminacy

Reading:

- Dolansky, F. 2008. *Togam virilem sumere*: coming of age in the Roman world. In J. Edmondson and A. Keith (eds). *Roman Dress and the Fabrics of Roman Culture*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press: 47 -70.
- Rothe, U. 2019. *The Toga and Roman Identity*. London: Bloomsbury: 71-100
- Olson, K. 2014. Masculinity, appearance, and sexuality: dandies in Roman antiquity. *The Journal of the History of Sexuality* 23.2: 182-205.
- Olson, K. 2008. *Dress and the Roman Woman: Self-Presentation and Society*. London and New York: Routledge: 80-95
- Sebesta, J. 2005. The *toga praetexta* of Roman children and praetextate garments. In Cleland *et al.* (eds) *The Clothed Body in the Ancient World*. London: Oxbow Books: 113-120.
- Icks, M. 2017. Cross-dressers in control: transvestism, power and the balance between the sexes in the literary discourse of the Roman empire. In D. Campanile, *et al.*, (eds). *Transantiquity: Cross-Dressing and Transgender Dynamics in the Ancient World*. London and New York: Routledge: 65- 82.

Mon Feb 20- Frid Feb 24: READING BREAK: NO CLASSES

Frid Mar 3: Cleanliness

Reading:

- Olson, K. *Masculinity and Dress in Roman Antiquity*. London and New York: Routledge, 2017, 91-104
- Fagan, G.G. 1999. *Bathing in Public in the Roman World* (Ann Arbor): 10- 39, 176-219
- Bradley, M. 2002 It all comes out in the wash: looking harder at the Roman *fullonica*. *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 15: 20-44.
- Scobie, A. 1986. Slums, sanitation, and mortality. *Klio* 68: 399-433

Frid Mar 10: Hair

Reading:

- Stephens, J. 2008. Ancient Roman hairdressing: on (hair)pins and needles. *Journal of Roman Archaeology* 231: 110-36.
- Bartman, E. 2001. Hair and the artifice of Roman female adornment. *American Journal of Archaeology* 105: 1-25.

- Callon, C. 2022. Bed head: a note on the durability (and subsequent potential “reuse”) of women’s hairstyles in antiquity. *Classical Philology* 117.3: 542-53.
- Cross, L. 2008. Fashionable hair in the eighteenth century: theatricality and display. In G. Biddle-Perry and S. Cheang, eds. *Hair: Styling, Culture, and Fashion*. Berg: 15-26;

Frid Mar 17: Jewelry

Reading:

- Berg, R. 2019. Dress, identity, cultural memory: *copa* and *ancilla cauponae* in context. In J. Rantala (ed) *Gender, Memory, and Identity in the Roman World*. Amsterdam Univ. Press: 203-38
- Ward, C. 2021. *Ornamenta muliebra*: jewellery and identity in the Roman period. In A. Batten and K. Olson (eds) *Dress in Mediterranean Antiquity: Greeks, Romans, Jews, Christians*. London: Bloomsbury: 95-108.
- Swift, E. 2017. *Roman Artifacts and Society: Design, Behavior, and Experience*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 150-201
- Harlow, M. 2019. Gender and sexuality. In M. Harlow (ed). *A Cultural History of Hair* (vol. I: Antiquity). London: Bloomsbury Academic: 97-110.
- Castor, A. Q. 2017. Surface tensions on Etruscan and Greek gold jewelry. In M. Cifarelli and L. Gawlinski (eds). *What Shall I Say of Clothes? Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to the Study of Dress in Antiquity*. Boston: Archaeological Institute of America: 83-100.

Frid Mar 24 (*student presentations) Cosmetics and perfumes

Reading:

- Olson, K. 2008. *Dress and the Roman Woman: Self-Presentation and Society*. London and New York: Routledge: 58-79
- Potter, D. Odor and power in the Roman empire. In J. Porter (ed). *Constructions of the Classical Body*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press: 169-89
- Stewart, S. 2017. *Painted Faces: A Colourful History of Cosmetics*. Gloucestershire: Amberley Publishing: 15-52.
- Johnson, M. 2016. *Ovid on Cosmetics: Medicamina Faciei Femineae and Related Texts*. London: Bloomsbury Academic: 1-40

Frid Mar 31 (*student presentations) Dress in the provinces

Reading:

- Greene, E. 2019. Metal fittings on the Vindolanda shoes: footwear and evidence for podiatric knowledge in the Roman world. In S. Pickup and S. White (eds). *Shoes, Slippers and Sandals: Feet and Footwear in Classical Antiquity*. London and New York: Routledge: 310-24.
- Rothe, U. 2013. Whose fashion? men, women and Roman culture as reflected in dress in the cities of the Roman north-west. In E. Hemelrijk and G. Woolf (eds). *Women and the Roman City in the Latin West*. Leiden: Brill: 243-68.
- Heyn, M. 2017. Western men, eastern women? dress and cultural identity in Roman Palmyra. In M. Cifarelli and L. Gawlinski (eds). *What Shall I Say of Clothes?*

Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to the Study of Dress in Antiquity. Boston: Archaeological Institute of America: 203-19.

- Carroll, M. 2012. The insignia of women: dress, gender and identity on the Roman funerary monument of Regina from Arbeia. *Archeological Journal* 169.1: 281-311.

Frid Apr 7 (*student presentations) Dress and ritual

Reading:

- Hersch, K. *The Roman Wedding: Ritual and Meaning in Antiquity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 69-114.
- Deighton, A. 2017. *Mutatio vestis*: clothing and political protest in the late Roman republic. *Phoenix* 71.3/4: 345-69.
- Hope, V. 2019. Dead people's clothes: materialising mourning and memory in ancient Rome. In Z. Newby and R. Touslon (eds), *The Materiality of Mourning: Cross Disciplinary Perspectives* (Routledge): 23-39.
- Olson, K. 2004-05. *Insignia lugentium*: female mourning garments in Roman antiquity. *American Journal of Ancient History* 3-4: 89-130.