

Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
Course Outline
GSWS 9164B: 'Gender and Fashion: the Historical View'
Winter 2022



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: Thursdays, 1:30-4:30 (in-person)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- H. Koda. 2004. *Extreme Beauty: The Body Transformed*. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art. Ppk. 978-0300103120
- All other readings are on our OWL site: click on the 'course readings' button

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This graduate seminar is designed to uncover the role played by fashion in the historical construction of gendered /sexualized identities, and to see fashion and material culture more generally as playing a fundamental role in the shaping of the past. We will treat clothing and other products of material culture as historical documents: the three-piece suit, the Victorian corset, a t-shirt and jeans from Urban Outfitters, the zoot suit, bloomers, drag heels— all provide a useful lens into the culture and sexual politics of particular times and places.

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:

Students completing this course are expected:

- To reflect upon and communicate the ways that individuals use fashion to make statements about gender, race, sexuality, and identity
- To understand the performativity of gender in relation to fashion
- To have an understanding of fashion history
- To identify different ways of understanding fashion in relation to history, class, philosophy, health, society, literature, race, and popular culture
- To critically reflect on the uses of fashion in the media
- To know and compare multiple theoretical and disciplinary perspectives and viewpoints concerning fashion

LEARNING OUTCOMES/TRANSFERABLE SKILLS:

Students completing this course are expected:

- To have acquired an understanding of the importance of historical perspective, and how social norms and customs, as well as categories of gender, are products of time, events and context
- To develop strong writing, research, analytical, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills
- 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.