

**The University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario, Canada
Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
Fall 2025**

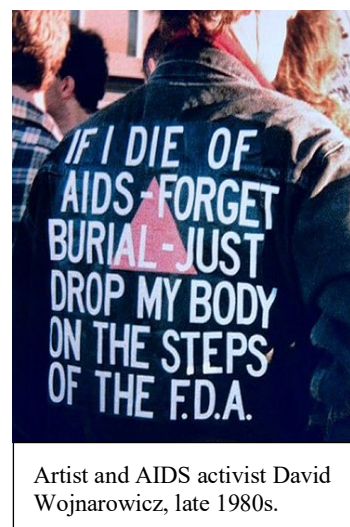
**THIS IS A DRAFT SYLLABUS THAT IS SUBJECT TO
CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**

GSWS 2164A: Gender and Fashion

The department would like to recognize that we are located on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape, and Attawandaron peoples.

Course Time and Place: Online (asynchronous)

Instructor: Dr. Jacob Evoy (they/he)
Email: jevoy2@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-11am or by appointment
Office: All meetings will be via Zoom





Course Description

This course will provide students with an introduction to how fashion is utilized in the construction of gendered identities in different geographical and historical locations. This course will also explore how fashion plays a role in the construction of sexual and racialized identities as well as a means of establishing and rebelling against societal norms. The course will demonstrate to students what clothing can tell us about empire, nation-building, protest, revolution, class, race, gender, sexuality, and identity.

Teaching Assistant			
Pronouns			
Email			
Office Hours			
Grading Students:			

All office hours will be held virtually via Zoom. Access to meetings can be found on the course OWL page under the Zoom tab. Students will only be permitted to join the Zoom call using their authenticated UWO account. Waiting Rooms have been implemented for all office hours. The same Zoom links will be used throughout the duration of the course for scheduled office hours as well as appointments outside of office hours.

Technical Requirements

	Stable internet connection		Laptop or computer
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Learning Objectives

Upon the completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- Critically examine how fashion is used to make statements about gender and identity
- Recognize the historical specificity of fashion statements and gender
- Understand how fashion is a means of establishing and rebelling against societal norms
- Understand how fashion is one of many ways that demonstrates the performativity of gender
- Have a general knowledge of the history of fashion in the West and how fashion is mobilized for different political purposes

Learning Outcomes and Transferable Skills

Upon the completion of this course, students are expected to:

- Improve critical thinking, writing, research, and analytical skills
- Possess an understanding of the importance of how social norms and customs, such as categories of gender, are products of specific historical moments and contexts



Photo by Thosh Collins. Clothing designed by Bethany Yellowtail.

Required Texts

There are no required texts students need to purchase for this course. All course material will be provided via the course website.

Asynchronous Learning

This course will be taught asynchronously. Asynchronous learning is self-directed and independent. All course materials will be provided via OWL Brightspace. Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. Completing the course requirements, listening to lectures, etc. are the responsibility of the students. Please plan your schedule accordingly.

All course materials will be made available to students at the beginning of the term to allow you to work at your pace and plan your schedule. While you can work at your pace, you are still required to meet course deadlines.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800



Activist and philosopher Angela Davis
entering court room, 1972.

Course Policies

Email Policy

Emails to the instructor and TAs will be responded to within 48 hours during regular working hours (Mon – Fri, 9-5pm). Please take note of and respect these working hours. Remember that should you send an email on Friday at 5pm, the 48-hour period would mean you receive a response by the following Tuesday at 5pm. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, please send a polite reminder email.

When contacting the instructor or TA(s) via email, students **must** include the course code (GSWS2164) in the subject line as well as use their official UWO email account. Emails without the course code and/or not sent from a UWO email are not beholden to the 48-hour response time. Students are reminded that OWL and their UWO emails are the primary methods of communication at the university and should check their accounts regularly (i.e., daily).

Before emailing the instructor or TA your question, please be sure to check the syllabus. Questions that are answered on the syllabus will not receive a response. Questions about

clarifying information on the syllabus are welcome.

Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students should note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Please see the following link for UWO's official [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)



Lizzo on cover of *Vogue*, Oct. 2020.

Medical Policy

Students seeking academic consideration on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home. Faculty and provide documentation. Academic consideration cannot be granted by the instructor or department. For UWO Policy on Consideration for Medical Illness see the online Academic Calendar; information can also be found here:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

Late Policy

Late submissions will have a 5% deduction for every day (including weekends) the assignment is late. If you require an extension on an assignment, please contact the instructor as soon as possible *before* the assigned due date. TAs cannot provide extensions. Consideration for medical reasons cannot be given from the instructor, students must go through the proper channels to receive medical consideration (see above).

Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Religious Accommodation requests for final exams should be submitted via the Student Absence Portal.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

All course contents (lectures, PowerPoints, transcripts, etc.) are the intellectual property of the instructor and guest lecturers. Course materials are ***not*** to be shared or distributed in any way without written permission from the instructor (including lesson video recordings).

Missed assignments and academic consideration

Academic Consideration must be requested within 28 days of the missed assignment.

Note for students with disabilities: Please contact ws-ugrad@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you. You may also contact ssd@uwo.ca to find out the full range of services available to you.

Support Services: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Plagiarism and Scholastic Offences

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:” [click here](#).

Plagiarism is the “act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.” (Excerpted from Black’s Law Dictionary, West Group, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). This is the definition used by Western's [Scholastic Discipline](#) document. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. Either way, plagiarism is a **Scholastic Offence**.”



Alok Vaid-Menon. 2018.

Plagiarism and AI

In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited. If AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of AI tools such as ChatGPT to create content that is submitted as one’s own. Assignments should reflect the student’s own thoughts and independent written work. The instructor reserves the right to reject any work submitted by a student if the use of AI is even suspected. The instructor reserves the right to give the student an unprompted oral exam in lieu of grading the submitted work suspected of being created by AI.

Turnitin

All written assignments must be submitted through Turnitin. Access to Turnitin will be available through the OWL course website. According to university policy: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com."

Student Evaluation

Syllabus Quiz	No later than end of Week 2 (Sept. 21)	5%
Instagram Takeover		15% * 2 = 30%
Post #1	See instructions for specific due dates	
Post #2	See instructions for specific due dates	
Midterm Exam	Week 7 (October 20 – 26)	25%
Final Exam	TBD	40%
Bonus – Course Evaluation	TBD (when student evaluations are available)	1%

Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Grading Criteria

Grade	Percentage	Criteria
A+	90 – 100%	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level.
A	80 – 89%	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70 – 79%	Good work, meeting the requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60 – 69%	Competent work, meeting the requirements
D	50 – 59%	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	< 50%	Assignment is not relevant to course; basic requirements not met; plagiarism

(See Resources folder on course OWL website for additional department grading criteria)

****After an assessment is returned, students must wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting the person who evaluated the assignment. Any correspondence that is sent to the TA or instructor during the 24-hour waiting period will not receive a response.**

****Your TA must always be the first point of contact to discuss your Instagram Takeover grades. If the instructor graded your assignment, they are your first contact.**

Course Schedule

Week	Theme	Dates (Mon-Sun)
1	Introduction: Why Study Fashion?	September 8 – 14
2	Corsets and Suffragettes	September 15 – 21
3	Dressing Fascism: Fashion and the State	September 22 – 28
4	(De)Colonizing Fashion	September 29 – October 5
5	The Culture and Sexual Dynamics of Fur	October 6 – 12
6	Protest Fashion	October 13 – 19
7	MIDTERM EXAM	October 20 – 26
8	Religious Fashion	October 27 – November 2
9	READING WEEK	November 3 – 9
10	Fa(t)shion	November 10 – 16
11	Queer Fashion	November 17 – 23
12	Drag Fashion	November 24 – 30
13	Catch Up Week (Bonus week)	December 1 – 5