



Fashion history and theory

Historiska och teoretiska perspektiv på mode

7.5 credits

Ladok Code: AEIHT1

Version: 1.1

Established by: Committee for Education in Business and Working Life 2024-02-23

Valid from: Autumn 2024

Education Cycle: First cycle

Main Field of Study (Progressive Specialisation): Textile Management (G2F)

Disciplinary Domain: Social sciences

Prerequisites: At least 60 university credits and English 6

Subject Area: Sociology

Grading Scale: Seven-degree grading scale (A-F)

Content

The course deals with fashion's relationship to clothes and to ideas about class and class society and gender differences. The course discusses the importance of clothing as a social marker and symbol, as well as the cross-border role fashion is given in the transition from a feudal state to a class society. Fashion is put in relation to other aesthetic expressions of culture and placed in an overview in aesthetic, philosophical and pop cultural contexts from the 1450s through the 20th century, including the establishment of the modern fashion system. Matters about the origins of fashion as a Western or universal phenomenon are discussed, as well as the role of fashion as an arena for debating social change. The historical emergence of fashion as a cycle and system in a historical Western context is highlighted, as well as its global, political, and personal dimensions.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- 1.1 Be able to provide an overview of central concepts, questions and theoretical perspectives on fashion,
- 1.2 be able to give an overview of the general change in European fashion over time from about 1350 to the present day, in relation to other aesthetic expressions and in a style-historical context,
- 1.3 be able, on a basic level, to describe notions of fashion linked to societal and ideological changes,
- 1.4 be able to give an overview of the role and function of fashion in the transition from a class society to a modern consumption and class society,
- 1.5 be able to provide an overview of ideas about the origins of fashion,

Competence and skills

- 2.1 based on some selected questions, on a basic level, be able to reflect in writing and orally on individuals' fashion consumption in relation to a global production of fashion,
- 2.2 be able to present a chosen object in writing based on the different perspectives and questions that the course provides,

Judgement and approach

- 3.1 be able to reflect in writing on fashion in relation to power, gender and class in a historical perspective.

Forms of Teaching

The course consists of lectures and seminars.

The language of instruction is English.

Forms of Examination

The course will be examined through the following examination elements:

Exam: Individual exam

Learning outcomes: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4. 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1

Credits: 6.5

Grading scale: Seven-degree grading scale (A-F)

Participation in seminars

Learning outcomes: 2.2, 3.1

Credits: 1

Grading scale: Fail (U) or Pass (G)

In case of failure or absence, the student will receive a supplementary written assignment.

Grades for the entire course are determined by grades on the individual exam. For grades (A-E) on the whole course, a passing grade is also required on the seminar.

If the student has received a decision/recommendation regarding special pedagogical support from the University of Borås due to disability or special needs, the examiner has the right to make accommodations when it comes to examination. The examiner must, based on the objectives of the course syllabus, determine whether the examination can be adapted in accordance with the decision/recommendation.

Student rights and obligations at examination are in accordance with guidelines and rules for the University of Borås.

Literature and Other Teaching Materials

Laver, J. (2002). *Costume and Fashion: A Concise History*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Riello, G. (2020). *Back in Fashion: Western Fashion From the Middle Ages to the Present*. New Heaven: Yale University Press.

Breward, C. (1998). "Cultures, Identities, Histories: Fashioning a Cultural Approach to Dress", *Fashion Theory*, 2(4), 201-313.

Mida, IE & A. K (2015). "Case Study of a Ruby Red Velvet Jacket by Christian Dior." *I The Dress Detective: A Practical guide to Object-Based Research in Fashion*, London: Bloomsbury Academic, 181-195.

Nicklas, C. & Pollen A. (2015). "Introduction: Dress History Now: Terms, Themes and Tools", *Dress History. New Directions in Theory and Practice*. London: Bloomsbury, 2–12.

Steele, V. (1998). "A Museum of Fashion is More than a Clothes Bag." *Fashion theory* 2:4, 327 (336), 375-385.

Additional course literature and other teaching materials are provided/informed about via the learning platform (max 300 pages).

Student Influence and Evaluation

The course is evaluated in accordance with current guidelines for course evaluations at the University of Borås in which students' views are to be gathered. The course evaluation report is published and returned to participating and prospective students in accordance with the above-mentioned guidelines, and will be taken into consideration in the future development of courses and education programmes. Course coordinators are responsible for ensuring that the evaluations are conducted as described above.

Miscellaneous

The course is a freestanding distance course.

This syllabus is a translation from the Swedish original.