San José State University  
School of Art and Design  
Art History 181.01 : Special Topics in Art History  
“Fashionology” / Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jan Newstrom Thompson  
Office Location: Art 117  
Telephone: 408 943 4337  
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Office Hours: Monday / Wednesday, 9 - 10 a.m. and by appointment  
Class Days/Time: Monday / Wednesday, 12 noon - 1:15 p.m.  
Classroom: Art 133  
Prerequisites: An Art History survey course is recommended.

Faculty Web Page

The syllabus (greensheet) is available at www.sjsu.edu/art/documents/greensheets. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at http://gallery.sjsu.edu/. Select Course Web Pages. Access through user = arth. Password = obelisk.

Course Description

In contrast to ordinary clothes, “fashion” as we examine it today (that is, as a changing pageant of styles and trends) began in the late medieval era. The elites of European society engaged in a competitive way of wearing clothes that became increasingly alluring for a developing consumer society presenting values for the elite that were tangible (status empowering) and yet intangible (considered frivolous and irrational) and finally, influential through many layers of society by the eighteenth century.

By the mid-seventeenth century, the French court and Paris defined fashion not simply as clothing, but “la mode,” meaning that cultural values in addition to dress were subject to rapid changes of style and form led by the aristocratic posturing.
This course will examine the evolution and changeability of fashion from its inception in the fourteenth century in Western Europe through to the present day, including issues of aesthetics, economy, manufacture, politics and morality. Such an examination is useful for art historical studies in virtually every period, including the dating of works of art and sociologic indicators of culture and position.

The course conforms to a lecture format that also includes group work, research activity, the possibility of three-dimensional projects, periodic tests and a final exam.

**Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives:**

Fashionology aims to acquaint students with the fluid directions of Western “fashion” since its inception and to encourage awareness of how these directions were governed by political, economic, social and gender issues in England, Continental Europe and the United States into the twenty-first century.

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbooks:**


**Other Readings**: Reading lists and bibliographies organized by topic will be distributed separately during the course of the semester and in class.

The semester’s Written Assignment will be available on a separate handout available in class period during the second week of class meetings.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on.

- There will be three scheduled tests, and a research paper/project as evaluation devices.
- The schedule of topics (at the end of this syllabus) is subject to change with fair notice, which will be made available during class time. Another BONUS for attending class!
Grading Policy

A separate assignment sheet will be distributed in class with information regarding the research project and its presentation.

Numeric grade equivalents:
- A+ - 98-100
- A  - 92-97
- A-  - 89-91
- B+  - 85-88
- B   - 80-84
- B-  - 76-79
- C+  - 72-75
- C   - 67-71
- C-  - 60-66
- D+  - 55-59
- D   - 50-54
- F   - below 50

Weight of course requirements:
- 25% - Test One
- 25% - Test Two
- 25% - Test Three
- 25% - Written Assignment

Extra Credit options will be available on two occasions during the semester.

Each option will be worth 10 additional points.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See University Policy F13-1 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Cell phone and computer use are prohibited during class time.

Kindly use the lavatory and take care of any business that might call you away from the classroom while the lecture is in session BEFORE class begins.

Take LOTS of NOTES! And don’t miss a test, as make-ups require a doctor’s note and are always more difficult than the original test.

Form a Study Group and share your observations and notes with your friends.

Attend class every session and get involved. Ask questions when something doesn’t appear clear to you.
If your test grade(s) don’t match your expectations, schedule an office visit as soon as possible. Not much can be done to correct your grades in the last week of classes!

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90–5 at http://www.sjsu.edu/ senate/docs/S90-5.pdf. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latdrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/ senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”
Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at http://www.sjsu.edu/aec to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See University Policy S14-7 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).
Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit Counseling Services website at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling.
AH181 / “Fashionology” - Fall 2015 Semester, Course Schedule

Subject to alteration with prior notice given during class time.

Week I: August 24 / 26 - * Introduction. Read Frances Corner, Why Fashion Matters
Examination of issues concerning the definition, stereotyping and
positioning of fashion in contemporary discourse.

Week 2: August 31 / September 2 - The following topics are addressed in the textbook: Fashion; the Definitive
History of Costume and Style, beginning on page 52.

* Medieval Dress and the Invention of Fashion.

Week 3: September 7 - Labor Day / no classes

September 9 - Film: Victoria and Albert Museum, London - 400 Years of Fashion; Anatomy of a
Collection. (Extra Credit Option - 10 points.)

Week 4: September 14 / 16 - * Continue Medieval Dress

Week 5: September 21 / 23 - * Knights in Shining Armor (pp. 68-71, 92-93)

Week 6: September 28 - Test One during class period.

September 30 - * Rumblings of Renaissance

Week 7: October 5 / 7 - * Renaissance Developments

Week 8: October 12 / 14 - * Fashion Icon, Elizabeth I (pp. 94-99) / Into the Sixteenth Century

Week 9: October 19 / 21 - * Baroque (pp. 116 ff.)

Week 10: October 26 - * Continue Baroque

October 28: Test Two during class period

Week 11 - November 2 / 4 - * Male Peacocks - Toward the Suit (pp. 132-33, 136-137)

Week 12 - November 9 / 10 - * Rococo Innovations - Rise of the Fashion Press

Week 13 - November 16 / 18 - * Revolution and Neo-Classicism

Week 14 - November 23: Film, The Eighteenth Century Woman
November 25 : Library Research

Week 15 - November 30 / December 2 - * Nineteenth Century to 1850

December 7 : Fashion Show / Last day of classes.

Final Test : Thursday December 10 at 9:45 a.m.
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