

WS 2164F: Fashion and Gender

Fall 2016 Wednesday 4:30-7:30

Professor Samantha Brennan
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This course examines the world of fashion from a critical feminist perspective. Topics covered may include fashion's role in gender and sexuality identity; the relationship between women's fashions and women's liberation; the history, sociology, aesthetics of fashion; the mass production of fashion; and feminist concerns about exploitation and sweatshop labour.

Office Hours Wednesday 10:30-12:30

All readings available on OWL

Evaluation

Online participation, 20%

2 short papers, 40%

Final exam, 40%

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Reflect upon and communicate the multiple ways that individuals use fashion to make statements about identity
- Identify different ways of understanding fashion through the critical lens of feminist theory
- Consider fashion in relation to history, class, philosophy, health, society, literature, and popular culture.

- Critically reflect upon the significance of fashion in the media.
- Compare and appreciate multiple theoretical and disciplinary perspectives and viewpoints concerning fashion.
- Understand the ethical and political issues concerning the production and marketing of fashion

In addition, students will develop their written, oral, and critical skills in these ways:

- By posting in on-line discussions through the term, students will develop skills of critical analysis, critical writing, and interactive engagement with others concerning course material.
- By participating weekly in in-class discussions (in both large and small groups), students will become stronger and more confident speakers.
- Through essay assignments and examinations designed to promote the synthesizing and consolidating of course material, students will sharpen their critical writing and critical thinking skills.

Policies

Scholastic Offenses: Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. As always, when in doubt ask before doing! Students should submit all work to “Turnitin” before the work is graded. Turnitin login information will be handed out with the essay topics.

Assignment Submission: Please submit your essays electronically only, on OWL. Assignments handed in past the due date are subject to a 2% penalty per day.

Academic Accommodation: Western University is committed to recognizing the dignity and independence of all students and seeks to ensure that persons with disabilities have genuine, open and unhindered access to academic services. We are committed to providing accommodation and equitable access to all course resources and experiences. Securing provisions for academic

accommodation are a shared responsibility between the student and the University. Please contact me if you require course materials in an alternative format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (519) 661-2111 ext. 82147.

For more information on Western's Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities please

see: http://www.uwo.ca/.../appeals/accommodation_disabilities.pdf

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.

Email is the best way to reach me, office hours are the next best, and phone is a distant third.

I encourage the use of electronic devices in the classroom for course related purposes only. Please make sure your devices are on silent. Please do not view material that is likely to disturb or distract students around you.

**ALL
WALKS
BEYOND
THE
CATWALK**
Celebrate & Educate





The most courageous
act is still to think for
yourself,
aloud.

- Coco Chanel -

