

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts (Winter Term 2016-17)**

VAH 2236G 001: What (Not) to Wear: Fashion Textiles and Art II

Weekly meetings: Tuesdays 11:30 am – 2:20 pm. in VAC100

Professor: Bridget Elliott

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Course Objectives

This course looks at convergences between art and fashion from the late 18th century to now. It will consider the work of artists and designers like Sonia Delaunay and Andrea Zittel who have designed textiles and clothing as well as more popular cultural icons such as Lady Gaga and Björk, whose distinctive styles reference the art world. We will examine the work of individual designers, such as Gianni Versace and Alexander McQueen, and corporations, such as Gucci and Prada. This course will trace some of the complex histories of materials, patterns and articles of clothing. We will also look at the way subcultural styles have been defined, mixed and mashed. Central to these topics is the way fashion has been illustrated and exhibited in museums, films and the print media as well as on television and the internet. Finally, the everyday art of DIY refashioning and retrochic will set the stage for studying antifashion and ecofashion.

Please note that this course complements VAH 2235F but can also be taken separately.

Learning Outcomes*

- Students will develop a critical understanding of the close relationship that has emerged between art and fashion since the late 18th century by looking at the similar ways leading artists and fashion designers have produced, promoted, exhibited and sold work that involves textiles and garments.
- Students will be introduced to high-tech and low-tech methods of making apparel and will gain knowledge of key designers and artists working in the area.
- Assignments will test students' knowledge retention (the midterm and final exam) and will also allow students to engage creatively with the course material (the two short assignments).
- Students who hope to work in the fashion industry will amass a great deal of knowledge, historical and contemporary, that they will be able to use in their future careers.

** Please note these outcomes can only be achieved if students complete the assigned work and fully participate in seminar discussions each week.*

Required Readings:

- Breward, Christopher. *Fashion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. The text is available from The Book Store at Western.
- pdf readings on course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

Course Requirements

10%	Weekly attendance/participation
15%	Assignment 1: due February 7, 2017
25%	Midterm Test (short answer): February 14, 2017
20%	Assignment 2: due March 21, 2017
30%	Final Examination (short answer with one essay question) in scheduled examination period