

UC Center Program Courses – FALL 2015
PCC 134. **The Fabric of History : Paris as a Fashion Capital**

Dimitri Papalexis

contact: papalexis.dimitrios@orange.fr

Office Hours
by appointment

Lecture

W 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
TH 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course traces how what we understand as the fashion capital of Paris is a result of an evolution that spanned centuries. Paris and its museum collections will provide the concrete background for a discussion of how fashion was borne of artistic, political, social and economic moments in history. Students will receive a basic grounding in the stylistic trends (Antiquity, Medieval and Byzantine, Renaissance, 18th century, 19th century, and 20th century) and will become familiar with the Paris collections from the Louvre Museum, Carnavalet Museum, and the Musée d'Orsay. Classic statuary collections, as well as tapestries and paintings, will be used as sources for analyzing changing styles and forms. **5.0 credits**. Suggested subject areas for this course: *History/Art History/Anthropology*

COURSE MATERIALS

Course Reader [CR]

Goals

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the history of fashion as it relates to social and political events and artistic currents at various times.

In order to meet this goal, the course focuses on the following texts and topics:

Texts:

- Selections from fashion historians, such as François Boucher and Melissa Leventon
- For the 19th and 20th century the principal fashion designers from Worth to Alexander McQueen

Topics:

- Stylistic evolutions and inspirations, origins
- Categories of vestments, their use and social meaning

Learning Outcomes

The course also seeks to develop students' written and oral skills through the following assignments and activities.

- Class discussion on fashion to evaluate style, meaning and its evolution from one period to the next
- Throughout the course, students are presented techniques in how to analyze the different forms and their thematic and symbolic components as well as their social and historical context.
- Through the museum visits they are confronted with the impact and use of fashion in artworks and paintings.
- The midterm and final exams test students on their understanding of fashion as a historical marker.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and site visits is mandatory. It is essential that you attend all classes and participate actively. As per the UC Attendance Policy, excessive absences and tardies will result in a

lowered final grade. Please refer to the UC French and European Studies Program Academic Handbook for the policy on absences and tardies.

Participation and reading assignments are critical. For the purposes of this class, participation means reading the materials in advance, coming to class on time, staying for the entire class period, and actively taking part in discussions and other in-class exercises and activities. A large part of this portion of your grade is simply **paying attention**; in order to pay attention, you must be present! Lateness and absences will have a strong negative effect on your participation grade.

Assignments: Deadlines for assignments are to be respected. There will be NO extensions on assignments, nor will there be any additional or make up assignments.

Grading

Attendance/Participation: 15%

Quiz (Week 4): 15%

Midterm examination (Week 7): 20%

Research paper (due Week 12): 25%

Final examination (Week 13): 25%

A Note on Academic Dishonesty: Regardless of the quality of work, plagiarism is punishable with a failing grade in the class and possible dismissal from the program. Plagiarism may be broadly defined as copying of materials from sources without duly citing them, claiming other's ideas as one's own without proper reference to them, and buying materials such as essays/exams. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask your instructor.

A Note on Electronic Devices: As a courtesy to your instructor and fellow students, please do not use cell phones, laptops, tablets, e-readers, or other electronic devices during class, even to check the time. Make sure phones are turned off. Use of these devices will lower your participation grade. No recording (audio or visual) of class sessions will be permitted.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1

Wednesday, Sept. 16: Lecture: Origins and Evolution

ANTIQUITY: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Crete and Rome. Styles, materials and influences.

Thursday, Sept. 17: **Visit:** The Louvre Museum

Weekly reading: Mireille M. Lee: *Body, Dress, and Identity in Ancient Greece*

François Boucher: *A History of Costume in the West*

Week 2

Wednesday, Sept. 23: Lecture: Europe from the 5th century BC to the 12th century AC.

Thursday, Sept. 24: **Visit:** The Louvre Museum

Weekly reading: François Boucher: *A History of Costume in the West*

Françoise Piponnier & Perrine Mane: *Dress in the Middle Ages*

Week 3

Wednesday, Sept. 30: Lecture: Europe from the 12th century till the 14th century

Thursday, Oct. 1: **Visit:** The Louvre Museum

Weekly reading: François Boucher: *A History of Costume in the West*

Week 4

Wednesday, Oct. 7: Lecture: The costume in Europe from the 14th century till the beginning of the 16th century.

Thursday, Oct. 8: **Visit:** The Louvre Museum

Weekly reading: François Boucher: *A History of Costume in the West*

Week 5

Wednesday, Oct. 14: Lecture: The renaissance costume, politics, social status and esthetics.

France, Italy, Spain, England, the military uniform and theater costumes.

Thursday, Oct. 15: **Visit:** The Louvre Museum

Weekly reading: Carole Collier Frick: *Dressing Renaissance Florence*

Sarah Jane Downing: *Fashion in the Time of William Shakespeare*

François Boucher: *A History of Costume in the West*

Week 6

Wednesday, Oct. 21: Lecture: Baroque. The 17th century fashion, France, Holland and England, materials, embroideries and laces.

Thursday, Oct. 22: **Visit:** The Louvre Museum

Weekly reading: François Boucher: *A History of Costume in the West*

Week 7

Review & Midterm Exam (dates and times TBA)

Week 8 (exceptional course meeting this week)

Thursday, Nov. 12: **Visit:** The Louvre Museum

Friday, Nov. 13: Lecture: The 18th century, new forms and styles; social codes and symbols.

Weekly reading: François Boucher: A History of Costume in the West

Week 9

Wednesday, Nov. 18: Lecture: The French revolution and the 19th century. Industrial revolution, Worth and the birth of Haute Couture.

Thursday, Nov. 19: **Visit:** Musée d'Orsay

Weekly reading: Heidi Brevik-Zender: Fashioning Spaces

François Boucher: A History of Costume in the West

Katherine Joslin & Daneen Wardrop: Crossings in Text and Textile

Week 10

Wednesday, Nov. 25: Lecture: 1900 Belle Époque and Art nouveau, the 20's and 30's, Art Deco, the end of the WW2.

Thursday, Nov. 26: **Visit:** Carnavalet

Weekly reading: François Boucher: A History of Costume in the West

Week 11

Wednesday, Dec. 2 & Thursday, Dec. 3: Lecture: Post WW2 fashion, the New Look and 18th century styles revival and novelties. New conditions and franchise, the American market, Dior, Chanel and Schiaparelli. The 60's, Yves Saint Laurent and women's trousers, Mary Quant and the mini skirt. Ready to wear and the 80's fashion.

Weekly reading: François Boucher: A History of Costume in the West

Cecil Beaton: The Glass of Fashion

Didier Grumbach: History of International Fashion

Week 12

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Lecture: End of the 20th century the new designers, inspirations, tendencies and new materials. Mondialisation and Institutionalization of fashion.

Thursday, Dec. 10: **Visit:** Temporary exhibition at the Arts Decoratifs museum "Korean fashion"

Week 13

Review & Final Exam (dates and times TBA)