

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2016-2017 MLCS 299 A2 / ENGL 385 A2: Fashion Culture in Text, Film, and Photography
(Fall Term)

Instructor: *Elena Siemens*

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Personal Website: *n/a*

Time: *M W F 13:00 - 13:50*

Place: *A 141*

Office Hours: *TBA,
or by appointment*

Course Website: *n/a*

Course Prerequisite: No or consent of department

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

MLCS 299 addresses representations of fashion in text, film/ theatre, and photography. Interdisciplinary in its scope, this course explores literature and visual media by authors and artists of various national and ethnic cultures represented in MLCS. Depictions of fashion will be discussed in the context of contemporary debates on consumption, globalization, social structures, identity, and gender. Topics include: Fashion and/in the City; Fashion History (Avant-Garde to now); Fashion in Film; Fashion on Stage; Fashion Advertisement and Photography; Street Fashion Photography and Blogs; Gendered Fashion; Global Fashion; Style Subcultures. The

course will include several guided visits to museums and galleries at the U of A and beyond. Along with more traditional written and oral assignments, students will be encouraged to complete more creative tasks, such as staging an exhibit related to representation of fashion.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- 1) Identify key concepts and leading theorists in the field of Fashion Studies and related areas (*Fashion and/in the City; Fashion History (Avant-Garde to now); Fashion in Film; Fashion on Stage; Fashion Advertisement and Photography; Street Fashion Photography and Blogs; Gendered Fashion; Global Fashion; Style Subcultures*).
- 2) Discuss major issues within the discipline of Fashion Studies and related areas (as above).
- 3) Along with more traditional written and oral assignments, students will learn to complete creative tasks (fashion exhibits, short photo/video presentations).

Texts:

Ed. M. Barnard, Fashion Theory: A Reader (London: Routledge, 2007). Additional texts and visual material to be distributed by the instructor (see Selected Bibliography below).

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Attendance and Class Participation: 25% (weekly oral & written in-class work)

Homework: 25% (weekly written and oral assignments)

Midterm Project: 20% (October 21)

Final Project: 30% (December 5)

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): n/a

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Please note that 25% of the final grade depends on attendance and active participation in class. Midterm project is comprised in such a way as to give students a good idea of their final project. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor with regard to any difficulty.

Selected bibliography:

Entwistle, J. (2000) *The Fashioned Body*. Cambridge: Polity.

Gelder, K. (2005) *The Subcultures Reader* (2nd Ed.). London: Routledge.

Edwards, Tim (2011) *Fashion in Focus: Concepts, Practices and Politics*.

London: Routledge.

Shinkle, Eugenie, ed. (2012) *Fashion as Photograph: Viewing and Reviewing Images of Fashion*. London: I. B. Tauris.

Simmel, G. (1997) 'The Philosophy of Fashion', in D. Frisby & M. Featherstone (eds) *Simmel on Culture: Selected Writings*. London: Sage

Sweetman, P. (2001) 'Shop-Window Dummies? Fashion, the Body, and Emergent Socialities', in J. Entwistle & E. Wilson (eds) *Body Dressing*. Oxford: Berg.

Welters, L. & Lillethun, A. (eds) (2007) *The Fashion Reader*, Oxford: Berg.

Required Notes:

"Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar."

Academic Integrity:

"The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University."

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and **translation** courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in language courses** should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, attendance is mandatory.

Policy for Late Assignments:

*Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be*

*deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason."*

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59