Instructor: Dr. Ewa Wasilewska, Middle East Center.

Contact info.: Ewa’s home phone: 801-560-4949. For emergencies only. Ewa’s email: Mruczak@AOL.com Preferable for all contacts. Website: www.ewas.us

Class attribute: Online

Course Description:
Religion may define fashion but does fashion have any influence on religion? Is it possible that the same clothing, which is intended to project religious values, can transition to high fashion or even Haute Couture making its values more inclusive to others or expand on them?

This course is designed to introduce students to the intermingling and interdependency of religion and fashion as based on available records from the ancient and modern Middle East. The utilitarian aspect of religious requirements would be stressed and contrasted with its transformation into avant-garde haute couture of modern catwalks in the Middle East (and elsewhere) while taking inspiration from religions originating in this region.

Disclaimer:
Some of the writings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking.

Teaching and Learning Methods:
This course is designed as a sort of an online seminar for undergraduate students. Thus, there are several of short papers in this class with all topics listed under the first module under “Assignments.” You should be well organized, have a lot of self-discipline, and often be self-directed in order to be successful in this class. Remember, you are expected to spend at least 9 hours per week on this class (i.e., 3 hours per every credit hour).

Course Communication:
The student-teacher communication will be via Canvas and the internal Canvas email. You can also contact me via my personal email address, which is Mruczak@aol.com. Remember, I don’t use my U of U email address. It is YOUR responsibility to check the Canvas email as well as to provide the University of Utah with your private email.
address if you are not using the U email address. Sending me your private email address will not do you any good because it is very difficult and time consuming for me to keep and figure out all private addresses of many students whom I teach.

**Communication with the Instructor:**
I will be checking the class email as well as my personal email on regular basis. The response time will be no more than 48 hours but usually I respond within 12 hours. If you don’t hear from me within 48 hours, it means that I didn’t get your message so send it again or contact me through other means. Face-to-face interaction with me is always possible by scheduling an appointment on campus; meetings can be arranged via phone or Skype.

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**Navigating Canvas:**
Most of the information can be navigated by using the “Tabs”/navigation links on the left-hand side of the Canvas screen. **Most information and materials are found in the “MODULES” section**, and are also broken down into a convenient week-by-week format. If you do NOT see any readings, pdfs, or materials that are in the syllabus, contact me immediately so that I can address the issue.
If you need support for learning Canvas, check this website: [http://support.instructure.com/index.php/Main_Page#](http://support.instructure.com/index.php/Main_Page#)
Don’t contact me with technical details since I am not very good with any technical explanations.

**Electronic or Equipment Failure:**
Electronic or equipment failure is NOT an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments. You must maintain a working computer/Internet needed to participate in this course. Keep your flash-drive ready to back up your assignments BEFORE you lose any data as the result of a computer malfunction. Avoid submitting your assignments at the last minute – remember Murphy’s Law! Know your options in case of electronic or equipment failure – use campus lab computers, check public libraries, and have as many friends as possible with working computers/Internet. Remember, your urgency is not my emergency!

**Technological Help Through the U of U:**
- **Canvas support:** [http://support.instructure.com/index.php/Main_Page#](http://support.instructure.com/index.php/Main_Page#)
- **UOnline:** Email: info@uonline.utah.edu
  Phone: 801-585-5959
- **Campus IT Help Desk:**
  Phone: 801-581-4000

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**Deadlines:**
Deadlines will be strictly enforced. Late work will not be accepted. However, unexpected things happen so if you have a legitimate excuse, let me know in advance, if possible. Legitimate excuses must be documented and verifiable. In case you have one, I will accept the late assignment at *my discretion* after I verify your excuse. Depending on circumstances, I may or may not grant you full credit, limited credit or no credit at all. I
will post course content and/or assignments at least one week in advance so you can plan accordingly.

Overview of Assignments and Grading:
All assignments are revealed in advance on the syllabus and under the first module on Canvas. However, you won’t be able to turn them in earlier than the scheduled “unveiling.” All dates are listed on the syllabus and on Canvas.

Grading:
Each assignment has a percentage value assigned to it: from 5% to 20%. Each assignment will be graded using the Letter-Grade scale (“A” as the highest, “E” as the lowest [no-pass] grade). The final grade will be calculated accordingly by setting up values of the Letter-Grade scale using the 4-Point scale. Please, don’t be concerned with the Canvas calculations of your grades – they are quite confusing so after each exam/assignment, I will be sending you an email with your grade as based on the letter and 4 point scales.

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Expectations:
Your assignments must demonstrate not only acquired knowledge but also your ability to analyze, synthesize and think both critically and creatively. Always pay attention to organization of your answers, chronological outline, logic (make sure you understand the concept before you start “connecting” words), and your audience (pretend that I know very little about the topic). The writing must be very clear.

Discussions:
I have opened a discussion forum for students enrolled in this course. This is a forum where you can help each other with your individual presentations by posting, for example, interesting articles and pictures that you come across when studying for your assignments. This is also a forum for me where I can help you with whatever you may need.

While you won’t be graded on participation in these discussions, I will consider your participation in these discussions for increasing your final grade at the end of the semester.

When participating in these discussions you must remain respectful of all classmates and the instructor at all times: no shouting, no swearing, no name calling, etc.
Required Readings:

This book is to be read in its entirety. On or before March 14, 2018 you need to send me (by email) a proposal for your final paper, which is to be based on this book. This paper is to focus on one theme from this book, which you would like to explore in more details.

[https://www.britannica.com/topic/dress-clothing](https://www.britannica.com/topic/dress-clothing)

This is just a simple outline for some topics covered in this class. Not a requirement.

All other required articles, chapters from different books, etc., are listed under specific topics discussed during the semester. All of them are available through electronic reserve or as hard copies. All electronic copies will be online and linked to or provided via Canvas. Hard copies are available only on Level 3 of the library in the Open Reserve collection.

Readings for Week #16 are not required but you may want to glance through them when writing your final paper or other assignments in this class.

Disclaimer: *The selected readings are basis for understanding of general issues in the area, not an update on its politics, etc.*

The instructor’s pdfs:
They are available on Canvas under proper modules. They are all copyrighted. These pdfs are often inclusive and detailed – use them wisely since they provide you with both outline and content of specific “meetings.” Under no circumstances plagiarize any part of them. I remember them very well and will disqualify your assignment immediately (for more about plagiarism see the end of this syllabus). I am very strict with students who plagiarize.

Suggested – interesting and fun but not required – readings for the future:


This is a very short book with history of modern fashion providing basic but also very informative discussions of its numerous aspects.


This book represents a very interesting approach to the topic promoting “examining the way in which fashion gets translated into dress, the way in which the textual body of the fashion magazine is interpreted and embodied in the practical experience of ‘getting dressed.’” (P. 247).

A very valuable book because of many illustrations but some fashions (especially from the Middle East) are missed.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

WEEK # 1: Of January 6, 2020
Introduction to the course.
From body lice to fashion. Basic terminology.

Readings for Week #1:
Doi:10.1093/molbev/msq234

A shorter and easier description of this discovery – see at:

A short video on the importance of body lice:

Doi:10.1146/annurev.anthro.33.070203.143805.

••• Don’t stress over this article. Don’t try to memorize anything. Just enjoy a wealth of information and general concepts.

Websites on history of fashion: known and unknown. Just browse through them in case you need any further references.

http://www.fashionintime.org

http://fashion-history.lovetoknow.com

Assignment #1 - Available on Friday, January 10, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Due on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.:
Select any iconic image, which is related to fashion and explain your selection. One image only. Text: 1 page.
(5% of your final grade).

WEEK #2: Of January 13, 2020
From function to identity.

Readings for Week #2:
McGuinness R. and A. Foster: What is the burkini? Why have French towns banned the full-body swimsuit? In Express (August 18, 2016 and updated on August 26, 2016).
http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/701626/Burkini-what-is-full-body-swimsuit-Muslim-swimmers-French-ban-towns-France-fine-burka

https://bellatory.com/clothing/History-of-Clothing-Why-We-Wear-Clothes


Assignment #2 - Available on Friday, January 17, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Due on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.:
Beach clothing controversy: function, fashion, and identity. Text: 1 to 2 pages. (5% of your final grade).

WEEK #3: Of January 20, 2020:
From nakedness to…? The first inventions in clothing. Part 1.

Readings for Weeks #3 and #4:


Movies (to be found on youtube)/not required but helpful and interesting:
Becoming Human – Episode 2 – Birth of Humanity (Homo Erectus). NOVA see youtube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuT7N5aoP48
Check on episode 3 too.

The Diva Mummy. Youtube. At https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asHq9ECCzWM

WEEK #4: Of January 27, 2020
From nakedness to…? The first inventions in clothing. Part 2.
Readings for Week #4: see #3.

WEEK #5: Of February 3, 2020
Ancient Egypt: “Fashion statements” into the 21st century.
Did religion dictate fashion in Ancient Egypt? Gender-specific or gender-less?
Egyptomania: Modern fashion inspired by Ancient Egypt.

Readings for Week #5:


Basic introductions to Ancient Egyptian garments, etc.:


Fascinating:
Assignment #3 - Available on Friday, February 7, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Due on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.:
While daily and “earthly” clothing in Ancient Egypt was simple, functional, and not really that remarkable, Ancient Egypt has been an inspiration to many fashion designers and other artists. Why? (Hints: accessories and beliefs). Text: 2 to 3 pages. (10% of your final grade).

WEEK #6: Of February 10, 2020
Simple, Sassy, and Sexy: Inana and her love of fringe.
(Much Ado About Nothing: An unmanageable goddess and manageable clothing).

Readings for Week #6:


This is a very important reading: It is relevant for lectures #6, 8, 9, and… The references in pdfs to this reading start with lecture 8.
I was able to download a whole book from https://oapen.org/download?type=document&dpcod=613276 , which I uploaded for this class.

Basic introductions:

Mesopotamian clothing.

Mesopotamian food, clothes, hairstyles and sex.
http://factsanddetails.com/world/cat56/sub363/item1521.html

WEEK #7: Of February 17, 2020

Readings for Week #7:


**Basic introductions/general:**
Ancient Minoan dress. 


**Assignment #4** - Available on Friday, February 21, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Due on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.:
Compare and contrast not so modest clothing of Inana (ancient Mesopotamia of the Sumerian and Akkadian traditions) and her counterparts in the Minoan culture. What seems to have been the feminine beauty ideal in these cultures? (Hints: freedom, equality, sexuality, and don't forget “red color!”).
Text: 3 to 4 pages.
(15% of your final grade).

**WEEK #8: Of February 24, 2020**
**Covering up: The Semitic Laws.**
Women know your place... Why did men care when deities didn’t?

**Readings for Week #8:**


**WEEK #9: Of March 2, 2020**
“Fashion” Dos and Don’ts of the Old Testament. Modesty rules but why?

**Readings for Week #9:**
Review chapters from Stol’s book.


What’s So Wrong with Mixing Wool & Linen? At http://ourrabbijesus.com/articles/whats-so-wrong-with-mixing-wool-linen/ (an explanation and discussion from a point of view of a religious functionary – similar to views of many others, scholars and laymen alike)

Assignment #5 - Available on Friday, March 6, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Due on Saturday, March 21, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.: “Jesus saves, Moses invests” as “we are what they are not.” What are elements of Jewish clothing, which must be used in fashion in order to convey the Jewish identity? (Hints: the Torah (= the Pentateuch of the Old Testament); check on readings from other lectures too). Text: 2 to 3 pages. (15% of your final grade).

WEEK #10: Of March 9, 2020
SPRING BREAK! ENJOY!

WEEK #11: Of March 16, 2020
Persian clothing – loving nomads!

Readings for Week #11:


Modern Iran: https://www.pinterest.com/katayoonmm/iranian-persian-women-style/?lp=true

MARCH 22, 2020, 11:59 P.M. DEADLINE for selection of a topic for your final paper. Topics will be approved before or on March 22, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. Topics are to be

Exploration of one theme/issue from the book – additional research is welcomed if class material does not cover your needs. You may want to glance through the readings listed under Week #16. 2-3 pages.

**WEEK #12: Of March 23, 2020**

Modesty Rules! Byzantine “Awakening.”

**Readings for Week #12:**


Christian Imagery on Silk Textiles: The Annunciation Silk. 


**WEEK #13: Of March 30, 2020**

Islam. The Qur’an and hadiths on clothing.

**Readings for Week #13:**


Middle Eastern Dress Vocabulary
http://www.csames.illinois.edu/documents/outreach/Middle_Eastern_Dress_Vocabulary.pdf

WEEK #14: Of April 6, 2020
Mediaeval Times: Rules set up to break.

Readings for Week #14:

Clothing in al-Maghrib (the Muslim West) in the Medieval and Renaissance Periods. http://home.earthlink.net/~lilinah/Costuming/MaghribiCostume.html


Assignment #6 - Available on Friday, April 10, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Due on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.: What do Byzantine, Islamic, and Mediaeval rules of fashion have in common? (Hints: divine guidance (Holy Books), revelations or religious functionaries in charge?). 4 to 5 pages.
(20% of your final grade).

WEEK #15: Of April 13, 2020
Veil Controversy: See Nothing or See through?

Readings for Week #15:
Review Stol’s readings.


Assignment #7 - Available on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. Due on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.:
What is veiling? Purity or seduction? Status or sin? (Hints: use Semitic laws as your starting point). 2 to 3 pages.
(15% of your final grade).

WEEK #16: Of April 20, 2020
Review. Finishing last assignments.

Final paper: Due April 29, 2020. 2-3 pages.
(15% of your final grade).

Supplemental readings:
The readings below are not required. You may want to glance through them before you write your final paper.


ADA Statement:
“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162
Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.” (www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty)

Faculty Responsibilities:
“All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from a class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.” (www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-12-4.html)

Academic Misconduct:
Please familiarize yourself with the University of Utah CODE OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (“STUDENT CODE”) at http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html
The following is an excerpt from this CODE explaining specific actions that won’t be tolerated in this class.

“2. “Academic misconduct” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

a. “Cheating” involves the unauthorized possession or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise, or the unauthorized communication with another person during such an exercise. Common examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, copying from another student’s examination, submitting work for an in-class exam that has been prepared in advance, violating rules governing the administration of exams, having another person take an exam, altering one’s work after the work has been returned and before resubmitting it, or violating any rules relating to academic conduct of a course or program.

b. Misrepresenting one’s work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one’s own work, or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of both faculty members.

c. “Plagiarism” means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person’s work in, or as a basis for, one’s own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one’s own, without attribution, any other individual’s words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

d. “Fabrication” or “falsification” includes reporting experiments or measurements or statistical analyses never performed; manipulating or altering data or other manifestations of research to achieve a desired result; falsifying or misrepresenting background information, credentials or other academically relevant information; or selective reporting, including the deliberate suppression of conflicting or unwanted data. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data and/or results.”
The following sanctions will be imposed in this class for a student engaging in academic misconduct:

1. A failing grade for a specific assignment, paper, exam, etc., without possibility to re-write it, re-take it, etc. The instructor will make an attempt (through an email and/or a note on the assignment/exam/paper, etc.) to contact a student to discuss the student’s conduct before granting an “E.” It is the student’s responsibility to respond to the instructor.

2. The second offense will be sanctioned with a failing grade for the whole course. In such a case, the following rule of the University of Utah **CODE OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES** is applicable and will be followed: “If the faculty member imposes the sanction of a failing grade for the course, the faculty member shall, within ten (10) business days of imposing the sanction, notify in writing, the chair of the student’s home department and the senior vice president for academic affairs or senior vice president for health sciences, as appropriate, of the academic misconduct and the circumstances which the faculty member believes support the imposition of a failing grade.”

3. For more information concerning sanctions for academic misconduct (additional sanctions might be imposed) and your rights and procedures to appeal these sanctions please refer to the aforementioned **CODE**.

If you need more information and/or explanations please don’t hesitate to contact the instructor.

**Non-Contract Note:**
This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given a reasonable notice of the modification.