

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINES		
TERM: Fall 2017	COURSE NO: Art History 260	
INSTRUCTOR:	COURSE NAME: Fabric and Society	
OFFICE: LOCAL: E-MAIL:	SECTION NO:	CREDITS: 3
OFFICE HOURS: TBA		

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities (field trips, etc.) for a 15-week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

For thousands of years humans have made cloth to serve functional, decorative, expressive and communicative needs. This course will explore the myriad ways in which fabric has been used socially, politically and aesthetically. Using illustrated lectures, class discussions, assignments and field trips this course thematically examines the role of textiles within society. Topics will include: textiles as narratives, identity, social status, spirituality, political affiliation or protest and technological development. Through studies drawn from a selection of ethnic, social or historical groups from around the world students will be introduced to the rich study of textiles from the Paleolithic period to the present day.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- name the materials from which a textile is made and the technologies used to create it.
- visually identify key features of textiles, and analyze the relationships of textiles to their historical and cultural contexts.
- employ techniques of reasoned discipline to interpret and critically assess textiles.
- summarize, discuss and reflect on a body of knowledge and methodology which will serve as a foundation for further study in art history, fashion, film and theatre costuming, design, archaeology, anthropology and related fields.

REQUIRED TEXTS: A course pack of weekly readings will be available at the

Gordon, Beverly. *Textiles: The Whole Story*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2013.

Harris, Jennifer. *Textiles: 5,000 Years*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2012.

Schoeser, Mary. *World Textiles: A Concise History*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2003.

Weiner, Annette and Jane Schneider, eds. *Cloth and Human Experience*. Washington: Smithsonian Press, 1989.

COURSE CONTENT:

Week 1: The Study of Textiles and Cloth as Cultural Experience.

Case Study: Paleolithic Textiles.

Read: Gordon, Beverly. Chpt. 1 "The Very Fabric of Existence: Textiles in human consciousness" from *Textiles: The Whole Story*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2013.

Week 2: Techno Textiles: Cloth and technological development.

Case Studies: The industrial Revolution and contemporary *smart* textiles.

Read: Schoeser, Mary. Chpt.10 "New Technology 1600-2000" from *World Textiles: A Concise History*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2003.
Braddock Clarke, Sarah and Marie O'Mahony. Part I "Innovations" from *Techno Textiles*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2003.

Week 3: Cloth as the Disseminator of Ideas.

Case Study: The Silk Road and Sasanian textiles.

Read: Joan Allgrove-McDowell, "The Sassanians" in Jenkins, D. *The Cambridge History of Western Textiles*. Vol I. Cambridge University Press. 2003. pp.153-158.

Week 4: Cloth as codes of communication and political protest.

Case Study: Gandhi and Indian Independence.

Read: Susan S. Bean. Chpt. 10 "Gandhi and *Khadi*, the fabric of Indian Independence," from Weiner, B. and Jane Schneider, eds. *Cloth and Human Experience*. Washington: Smithsonian, 1989/2009.

Week 5: Cloth as Codes of Communication and Identity.

Case Studies: The Inca tunic and the *T-Shirt*.

Read: Stone-Miller, Rebecca. *Art of the Andes: From Chauvin to Inca*. London: Thames and Hudson. 2002. pp. 210-214. And Harris, Jennifer, ed. *Textiles: 5,000 Years*. New York: Harry N. Abrams. 1993. pp.273-276. And TBA.

Week 6: Textiles and Identity.

Case Studies: Kuba Raphia Textiles and 21st c. Asante strip cloth.
Read: Patricia Darish. Chpt. 5 "Dressing for the Next Life" from
Weiner, B. and Jane Schneider, eds. *Cloth and Human Experience*.
Washington: Smithsonian, 1989/2009.

Week 7: Textiles and Identity (continued).

Case study: North West Coast Indigenous Chilcat weavings.
Read, Harris, Jennifer, ed. *Textiles: 5,000 Years*, New York: Harry N.
Abrams. 1993. pp. 264-269. *Gwishalaayt-The Spirit Wraps Around You*.
Dir. Barb Cranmer. Nimpkish Wind Productions, 2001.DVD. And TBA.
Guest Speaker.

Week 9: Field trip to MOA: UBC Museum of Anthropology.

Week 10: Textiles and Social Status:

Case Study: Chinese mandarin rank badges and *Dragon Robes*.
Read: Harris, Jennifer, ed. *Textiles: 5,000 Years*, New York: Harry N.
Abrams. 1993. pp. 133-141. And Jackson, Beverly, and David Hugus.
Chpt. 14 "Chinese Symbology" from *Ladder to the Clouds: Intrigue and
Tradition in Chinese Rank*. Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 2004.

Week 11: Textiles and Spirituality.

Case Study: Navaho weaving.
Read: Valette, J.P. *Weaving the Dance: Navaho Yeibichai Textiles
(1910-1950)*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. 2000. pp. 6-9.
And TBA.

Week 12: Textiles as Narrative Expression.

Case Study: European Tapestry.
Read: Harris, Jennifer, ed. *Textiles: 5,000 Years*, New York: Harry N.
Abrams. 1993. pp. 188-198. And Adams, Mark. "Tapestry Redux." in
Bennet, Anna. *Five Centuries of Tapestry*. San Francisco: Chronicle
Books. 1992. pp. XI-XII.

Week 13: Presentations of Final Projects

Class will take place at the Textile Lab, MOA: U.B.C. Museum of
Anthropology

Week 14 & 15 FINAL EXAM PERIOD – No Exam, but Final Projects Due in
Week 14.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

All students are required to complete 2 short think pieces, a midterm exam in class, and the final project (the project must also be presented to the class). Together these will measure how well the learning outcomes are being achieved.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Participation (5% attendance, 5% group discussion)	10%
2 short think pieces (15% each)	30%
Midterm Exam in Class	30%
Final Project (25% content, 5% presentation)	30%
Total	100 %

GRADE PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken. Failure to attend classes regularly will inevitably result in poor grades.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be penalized 2 points per week, unless an extension is given. This must be requested in advance and is granted only under exceptional circumstances, usually requiring a doctor's certificate.

Missed Exams: Make-up tests are given at the discretion of the instructor. They are generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crisis. Students should be prepared to provide proof of inability to write the test on the scheduled date (e.g. letter from doctor).

English Usage: It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all written work for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors. Marks will be deducted for incorrect grammar and spelling in written assignments.

Incomplete Grades: Given at the discretion of the instructor. Generally given only in medical emergencies or severe personal crises.

Electronic Devices: No personal electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, etc.) may be used during an examination. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.