

An introduction to Fashion Studies.

How to decode representations and practices through a multidisciplinary approach

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will have the basic tools to consider fashion from an interdisciplinary perspective. The course aims to introduce students to the field of fashion studies, investigating key issues in the sector's discourse. Students will become familiar with the recurring theories and methodologies used today to study fashion and decode representations and practices of fashion that dialogue with complex sociocultural processes.

Course Contents

The course explores the manifestations of fashion especially in the contemporary era. It is divided into two parts that will be addressed jointly: theories and methods. In the part dedicated to theories, discussions will focus on the relationship between fashion and society by questioning complex variables such as gender, class, ethnicity, trans/nationality. We will try to apply this set of theories to specific case studies that investigate fashion as an object, practice, representation, industry and concept.

Teaching Methods

The course will use a combination of lectures, panel discussions and activities to facilitate learning. Lectures will provide fundamental knowledge, while various activities will challenge students to apply their previous knowledge to rethink the history and theories of fashion, closely interconnected with design studies, sociology, film studies and cultural studies.

Readings/Bibliography

Kawamura, Y. (2018). *Fashion-ology: An Introduction to Fashion Studies*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Wissinger, E., Paulicelli, E., Manlow, V. (2021). *The Routledge Companion to Fashion Studies*. Taylor & Francis.

Each lesson will be accompanied by a list of reference readings, which will provide insights into the topics covered. These readings will include a mix of scientific articles and relevant book chapters.

Teaching Tools

To support the learning process, the course will use a variety of teaching tools including PowerPoint presentations, videos and social media. Additional materials and resources will be uploaded to Teams.

Lesson 1 (2H): Introduction to Fashion Studies
A brief introduction to the Master Degree in Fashion Studies. An outline of contents and objectives provided by the course.
Inside Fashion Studies. What is Fashion? The origins of Fashion Studies. The need for a global perspective.
LESSON 2 (2H): Introduction to Fashion Studies pt. 2
Fashion Theory: An introduction of the main theories. How to use key theories to unravel the fashion dimension
LESSON 3 (2H): History of Fashion
How to read the History of Fashion from a multidisciplinary point of view.

(Fashion, Politics, Society. Case studies from the 50s to the 70s)

LESSON 3 (2H): History of Fashion pt. 2

How to read the History of Fashion from a multidisciplinary point of view.

(Fashion, New Media, Economy, Society. Case studies from the 80s to the 90s)

LESSON 3 (2H): Contemporary Fashion

How to read contemporary Fashion from a multidisciplinary point of view.