

THA 150—Clothing as Self Expression/Caterisano—3025 /834 2688
11:30-12:45 on Tuesdays and Thursdays; Office hours by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Critical Thinking/Effective Communication/Information Fluency/Introduction to Intellectual Community

1. The course should help the students gain a working knowledge and vocabulary of fashion history.
2. The course will foster an understanding of the psychology and language of dress.
3. The course requires the student to make creative choices about personal preferences in realizing an original wearable design.

READING MATERIAL:

On Human Finery by Quentin Bell

The Language of Clothes by Alison Lurie; Fashion as Communication by Malcolm Barnard

Concise History of Costume and Fashion by James Laver

The Shape of Things by Neil Labute

Various Other Reading Assignments posted on Moodle

GRADES:

A+	990-1000	B+	880-899	C+	780-799	D+	680-699
A	930-989	B	830-879	C	730-779	D	630-679
A-	900-929	B-	800-829	C-	700-729	D-	600-629

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY SINCE CLASS PARTICIPATION IS INTEGRAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE COURSE. Students are required to be present for all presentations. An absence on any presentation day will result in a 5 point deduction for the absent student's project grade. In order for an absence to be excused, students must acquire a note from the Associate Academic Dean's office, or from the infirmary, or from a doctor's office.

CLASS PROJECTS: All class projects will be collected at the beginning of the period on the day the project is due. Projects not ready to be collected at this time are late. 10 points will be deducted for each day a project is late. A late project due to an excused absence must be turned in at the beginning of the following class period in order to avoid late penalties.

1. **The Shape of Things** is a group project based on the play by Neil Labute. Each group will design a wardrobe for assigned characters in the play. Bearing in mind how individual preferences and character traits affect one's wardrobe, each group will also create a comprehensive listing of everything that might be found in each character's wardrobe. The individuals in the group will then each create renderings of the characters using the wardrobe list the group has created. This project is worth 50 points.

2. Personal Designs/Written Descriptions for assigned Fashion History Periods
Assignment will involve a personal approach to specific fashion periods in written and visual form. Renderings for original designs based on 13 Fashion Periods should be swatched for color and fabric. Supplemental materials and research may utilize fashion photographs from current fashion magazines or newspapers, with examples of contemporary fashion characteristics mirroring the particular period of study. The renderings should combine current fashion trends with fashion characteristics from studied periods and include a **written description of personal preferences regarding those fashion periods. The renderings should also note the transfer of the salient period characteristics from the antique styles to the contemporary styles. Each student is responsible for 15 personal designs worth 10 points each. There are 150 total possible points for this project.**

3. 3 Fashion history presentations at 30 points each. The students will be responsible for group presentations of 3 assigned fashion history periods. **There will be a fashion history test.**

4. The Status in Fashion project is a group project that involves searching for articles in fashion or pop culture magazines that demonstrate current attitudes reflecting conspicuous consumption/ utilitarian principle/ shifting erogenous zone. Each group will collect articles illustrating contemporary fashion attitudes related to the group's assigned On Human Finery chapter and special topics. The groups will make a class presentation and lead a class discussion on the assigned topics. **This information will be included in the final exam. This project is worth 150 points.**

5. Current Production Project/ Costume reviews requires student attendance at both current semester productions presented in the Furman University Playhouse. Students will then write a response to the play, focusing on the costume designer's choices for the characters in the play. There are two reviews required at 50 points each; **there are 100 total points for this requirement.**

6. 2 Tests @ 105 points each; one fashion history slide quiz, one final presentation/Lurie/Bell test given the day of the final.

FINAL PROJECT worth 250 points.

A) Research of Fashion Staple which will include a documented history of the fashion item, as well as speculation on the future of the garment.

B) Original design for either the item or a similar item expressing individuality.

The projects will be posted on Moodle. Students should become familiar with all final projects since the research will provide the basis for the final/final quiz.

WEEKS 1 and 2

Intro to class

(Moodle assignments)

Rendering with croquis

Culture of Fashion

- WEEK 3
Culture of fashion/Romanesque-Cavalier (Laver Ch 1-4)
- WEEK 4
THE WAY WE WEAR
The language of clothes (Lurie, Barnard)
- WEEK 5
First 5 Personal Designs due/ Discussion-THE SHAPE OF THINGS
CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION (Bell; Lurie)
- WEEK 6
Presentation of **THE SHAPE OF THINGS**
- WEEK 7
Restoration/18th Century/Empire/Romantic/Crinoline (Laver Ch 5-8)
- WEEK 8
Bustle/Victorian/Edwardian (Laver Ch 9-10)
20th Century/discuss Production #1 (**PAPER DUE**)
- WEEK 9
Special Collections in the Library
- WEEK 10
Magazine/chapter Presentations
Magazine/chapter Presentations
- WEEK 11
Choose topics and groups/20th Century
Fashion History Quiz
- WEEK 12
2nd set of personal designs due—next 5
- WEEK 13
3rd set of personal designs due—next 5
Discuss Production #2 (**PAPER DUE.**)
- WEEK 15
ALL PRESENTATIONS GO ON MOODLE
final presentations
- WEEK 16
final presentations/review

Final exam is based on all final presentations, but will include information from Bell, Barnard, and Lurie readings.

Checklist for 15 **Personal designs** @10 points each (**150 points total**)

For each of the 13 fashion history periods we will study, students in the class will design a contemporary look based on elements particular to the fashion periods. The designs should be neat, in color, and swatched. Students will submit one design for all 13 of the studied periods; the last two designs of the 15 required will be designs based on two periods of choice.

1. Design reflects the student's favorite garment details particular to a selected fashion history period. (**Worth 2 points.**)
2. Rendering is neat, clear and communicative; in color, and swatched. (**Worth 2 points.**)
3. Design is complete with supplemental images and period research. (**Worth 2 points**)
4. Research is documented properly. (**Worth 2 points**)
5. Design is accompanied by a written narrative explaining the choices made for the marriage of the particular period in fashion history to contemporary fashion. (**Worth 2 points.**)

Checklist for **THE SHAPE OF THINGS** @50 points

Read the THE SHAPE OF THINGS and design for assigned characters in the play. Bind or paperclip the group work together. Include the following:

1. Wardrobe list. Be thorough. Include underclothing and accessories; you might be able to use your own closet at school as a guide. Remember, the characters are all college students. (**worth 9 points**)
2. A written description of the character(s). Allude to information in the script, particularly pay attention to the dialogue. Be thorough. Include character traits, physical traits, and descriptive metaphors. (**worth 9 points.**)
3. Swatched Color Renderings. Make sure the renderings are full figures, and that you provide an accurate sense of color with your swatches or paint chips. Keep your plates neat and pay attention to labels. (**Worth 10 points.**)
4. Research. Your research may include (but isn't limited to) pictures from catalogs, articles about college life, pictures taken of Furman students—(use candid shots only with permission,) magazine ads, etc. (**Worth 10 points.**)
5. Bibliography—document your sources (**Worth 9 points**)
6. A confidential written statement of individual contribution and group evaluation by each member in the group. The group evaluations may affect individual grades for the project. This must be submitted by email and by the end of the day on which the project is due. (**Worth 3 points.**)

Checklist for 3 **Fashion History Presentations** @25 points each (**75 points total**)

Read fashion history chapters in Laver's book, become familiar with the assigned fashion period.

1. Create a power point presentation to teach the period to the class. Document research.
2. Include fashion silhouette, concept of beauty, salient garment characteristics, popular colors, popular fabrics. (**12 points**)
3. Include notable people, events, discoveries, inventions, etc. (**8 points**)

Checklist for the **Status in Fashion Project @ 150 points**

Each group will be assigned topics related to Conspicuous Consumption along with a Chapter from Bell's book, On Human Finery. Read the assigned chapter(s) in Bell. Find articles from credible sources to illustrate the topics in Bell and the assigned Conspicuous Consumption topics. Prepare an outline as a study guide and make a presentation to the class. Bind or paper clip the group work together.

1. Outline for assigned Chapter in Bell. **(Worth 15 points.)**
2. One article/write-up per student covering assigned conspicuous consumption topic. **(Worth 25 points.)**
3. One article/write up per student illustrating conspicuous outrage **(Worth 25 points.)**
4. One article/write-up per student illustrating themes in the assigned On Human Finery chapter. **(Worth 25 points.)**
5. Group Bibliography **(Worth 25 points.)**
6. Class Discussion and Presentation **(Worth 30 points.)**
7. A confidential written statement of individual contribution and group evaluation by each member in the group. The group evaluations may affect individual grades for the project. This must be submitted by email and by the end of the day on which the project is due. **(Worth 5 points)**

Checklist for **Costume Critiques; 2@ 50 points each. (100 points total.)**

Attend THE BIRTHDAY PARTY and THE WOMEN OF LOCKERBIE in order to write a considered critique of the costumes for both productions. Your response per production is based on your opinion regarding the costumes for that production. You might reference Lurie, Laver, or Bell in your paper, (be sure to document sources properly) but your paper is based on your opinion on how successful the costumes were in providing adequate signals to the audience regarding the themes in the play, character traits, and actors' choices for character interpretations. If you refer to another source or use someone else's opinion, you must document the source. Failure to document your sources properly will adversely affect the critique grade by at least 15 points, and may result in a failing grade for your paper.

Some questions you may want to consider in your paper are:

1. Do the costumes accurately reflect a period? If so, which one? **5 points**
2. What do the costumes say about the characters in the play? **20 points**
3. How does the designer separate the different groups? **10 points**
4. Did the colors used provide clues for the audience regarding story and character? What about the textures and shapes? **10 points**
5. Did the costumes add or detract from the success of the play? **5 points**

Please type the paper and email it to me the day that it is due. Please try to limit your response to four pages. Your response should be at least three pages long.

FINAL PROJECT @ 250 points

- A) Research of Fashion Staple** which will include a documented history of the fashion item, as well as speculation on the future of the garment. This research paper is a collaborative effort and all members of each group share the project grade.

Written paper must be documented properly and include a bibliography. The type of notation (endnotes, footnotes, etc.) and the manner in which the sources are cited are student choice, as long as the student is consistent when referencing sources. **A paper submitted without endnotes or footnotes and a bibliography may receive a failing grade. (Worth 25 points.)**

Research must include at least 5 credible references. Wikipedia should not be used as a source. Credible references are published journal articles or books. **(Worth 25 points.)**

Papers will be graded for content. (Worth 100 points.)

Written paper should be approximately 10 pages long double spaced; use either Times or Times New Roman fonts.

Written papers should be submitted electronically.

In addition to the paper, each group should submit a written account of individual contributions to the group effort. These accounts may affect the grades assigned to individuals in a group. **(Worth 10 points.)**

Each group will make a final presentation in class. (Worth 50 points.)

Presentation organized (10 points)

Presentation informative (20 points)

Presentation engages the class (5 points)

Study guide (15 points)

- B) Original design** for either the researched item or a similar item expressing individuality. **This part of the final project is graded individually. The points are awarded per individual design, honoring an individual's commitment to this particular aspect of the final project.** Original designs must be presented to the class as part of the final project presentation. **(Worth 25 points for each group member)**

Although the final project may be done as a group, each member must create an original design.

Rendering neat (5 points)

Rendering informative (10 points)

Rendering swatched (5 points)

Rendering in color (5 points)

A written explanation about the original design and how it relates to the designer's personal tastes must accompany the rendering of the piece. **(Worth 15 points)**