

Course Guidelines

FS1408, Fashion and Materiality

Course leader: Dr Paula von Wachenfeldt, paula.von.wachenfeldt@ims.su.se

Course starts at: March 22, 12.00-14.00 in Seminar room 1

Course description:

The history of human civilisation shows that objects have always had a pivotal role in society. Everyday life is organized around different objects with miscellaneous values and significance for the individual. Objects and artefacts can have a purely functional role while they can also be a vehicle for affective stance and possess symbolic and aesthetic values.

This course gives an in-depth exploration of *object-based studies* offering first and foremost a methodological tool to contextualize and analyze fashion objects. Departing from existing research we learn about how to examine tangible things and how to interpret social and cultural tendencies that surround the objects. Objects bring to life different narratives and the social practices connected to them. This course offers an understanding of material culture through the study of ideas, beliefs and values that are imbedded in the objects.

The course consists of lectures, seminars and a workshop. The lectures provide an overview of the course literature while seminars offer an opportunity to discuss both in small and large groups. The workshop will be organized by the Nordic Museum at Stockholm, offering us a great opportunity to investigate old garments.

The symposium held at the end of the course is to train you at presenting a minor research topic and, not least, giving and receiving feedback on your presentation. The feedback moment is a pedagogical tool as it constitutes a learning procedure for students: learning from peers, learning new topics and learning to critically reflect on other's topics. This is one of the major skills that are required from students in academia.

Feedback from teacher on your essay is given to you along with the final take-home exam. Teacher may ask questions or comment your presentation during the symposium but **the priority is given to student's feedback to each other.**

Lerning objectives:

On completion of the course, you are expected to be able to:

- Explore the different methods used in object-based studies
- Analyze fashion objects in their socio-cultural context
- Critically reflect on the meaning of materiality



Assessment:

Students are expected to attend at least 80 % of the total number of classes/lectures. The student symposium, the workshop and the submission of final paper are mandatory.

The course is assessed through student oral presentation at the symposium and the completion of a take-home exam of 12 pages **written in pair**. The presentations are graded *pass* or *fail*, while the take-home exam is graded on a criterion-referenced seven-grade scale.

In order to obtain a final grade for the course, both assignments have to be completed with a *pass (oral presentation)*, a minimum grade of *E (written exam)*, as well as the criteria of 80 % mandatory attendance.

The symposium consists of a presentation **in pair** of an object that you choose together with your classmate. The presentation is 20 minutes long followed by 5 minutes feedback from a feedback group. The last 5 minutes are dedicated to the comments and questions of the audience. Theoretical aspects, as much as the method used to investigate the object, have to be taken into consideration. The study needs to show the social, cultural and historical context in which the chosen object has been produced and used. You need further to critically reflect on its meaning.

The symposium takes place on the 24th and 25th of May in Wilson. Participation is mandatory. Deadline of submission of the **individual paper** presented orally in pair at the symposium: **31th May no later than 12 in the box outside Paula's office.**

All coursework will be conducted in English.

Students need to compose their written assignments so that they can be presented electronically, if the teacher so requires. Written exams may be scanned with the tool Urkund. Possible fraud, such as plagiarism, will be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee. Corrected exams can be collected at the Student Office.

Examination dates:

1. 2017-05-31. 12.00 deadline for submission of the written exam presented orally on the 24th and 25th of May
 2. 2017-08-21. 12.00 deadline for submission of written re-exam
-

Assesment criteria:

Assessment is based on a criterion-referenced scale. A, B, C, D and E are approved grades. Fx and F are failed grades. In order to obtain final approval the course requires a minimum grade of E for the written exam and that all course requirements are met.

If you do not meet the deadline for the final exam you are allowed to hand it in at a later point in time. Note, however, that the highest possible grade to obtain for those handing in late is a **D**.



Stockholms
universitet

A	Excellent and innovative ability to examine and analyze an object in fashion studies. Insightful method(s) and original critical reflections on the meanings of the object.
B	Very good ability to analyze the meanings of an object. Very good competence in the use of method. Well reflective standpoints.
C	Good ability to explain the meanings of an object. Satisfying competence in the use of method and exposition of standpoints on the meanings of the object.
D	Good knowledge of an object. Rudimentary ability to use a method in the description of the object and its meaning.
E	Basic knowledge of an object. Basic attempt to use an appropriate method to describe the meaning of an object.
FX	Insufficient: Mandatory course requirements are not met. The student needs to hand in a supplementary course work within one week after the result of the final exam has been reported.
F	Insufficient: No relevant knowledge. Handed in a defective examination or one that cannot be assessed. Supplementary work is not accepted.

Plagiarism

As a student you will be writing and handing different types of written tasks. It is therefore fundamental that you know that all kind of plagiarism is strictly forbidden!

Plagiarism consists of:

- Students copying from each other;
- Students copying from internet, books, articles or other sources without a clear reference;
- Students passing a work or a citation as their own when it is not;
- All kind of cut-and-paste writing strategies.

Any incident of this kind will be reported to the Disciplinary committee of Stockholm University. In case you are found guilty you might be suspended from the University for a period of time.

In order to avoid plagiarism you need to:

- Precise your sources by referring to the author, the book and the page in question;
- Mark that you are using someone else's words by marking it with a quotation mark;
- Precise whose thoughts you are presenting if they are not your own;
- Not pass your work to others.



Stockholms
universitet

Writing your own text in your own words is part of your learning process as a student and will develop your ability to think independently and express your thoughts in speech and writing.