

Course Guidelines

FS1408, Fashion and Materiality

Course leader: Chiara Faggella, chiara.faggella@ims.su.se

Course starts at: March 26, 10.00-12.00 in Seminarierum Wilson

Course description:

How can we use objects to study fashion as a cultural, historical phenomenon? The history of human civilisation shows that objects have always had a pivotal role in society, yet their importance as primary sources of investigation has been reevaluated only recently in academia. In certain disciplines, it might even be still object of disdain. The purpose of this course is to provide a fashion-oriented perspective in studies of material culture, particularly focusing on the following issues:

- how has history as an academic discipline dealt with objects as primary sources?
- what are object-based studies in fashion and why are they useful?
- what kind of narrative can an object carry with itself?
- what is the use of such narratives in different contexts (individuals, institutions, companies)?
- where do we draw a line in defining the materiality of an object?

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 topics and issues both in small and large groups. The workshop will be organized by Nordiska museet in Stockholm, offering us an invaluable opportunity to investigate surviving historical garments within the curatorial setting of Nordiska's own archive.

The symposium held at the end of the course is an opportunity to train students in academic presentation of research topics and, not least, in giving and receiving feedback on your presentation. The feedback moment is a pedagogical tool that 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 most important skills that are required from students in academia.

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 (12 out of 15): of these, the students' symposium and the workshop are mandatory.

The course will be assessed through:

- students' oral presentations at the symposium (in pairs);
- the submission of a written essay (written in pairs);
- the submission of self-evaluation paper (written individually).

The presentations are graded *pass* or *fail*, while both the essay and the self-evaluation paper are graded on a criterion-referenced seven-grade scale. In order to obtain the final grade for the course:

- the oral presentation must receive a grade of *pass*;
- the written essay and the self-evaluation paper must receive a minimum grade of *E*;
- the student must attend at least 12 out of 15 classes, including the students' symposium and the workshop.

The symposium will take place on May 14 and 15 in seminar room Wilson. As specified earlier, participation is mandatory. Students are required to work in pairs and choose an object that they will investigate and analyze according to the models presented during the course. Each pair will then present the results during the students' symposium.

Every **oral presentation** shall be conducted in pairs and be approximately 20 minutes long. It will be followed by a 5 minutes feedback from a feedback group of fellow students (selected beforehand) and 5 additional minutes dedicated to comments and questions from the audience.

Each presentation shall address: the method(s) used to investigate the object; the social, cultural and historical context in which the chosen object has been produced and used; critical reflections produced by the students themselves.

After the symposium, the students will be required to write an **essay** in which they will present the investigation presented during the symposium. The essay shall be min. 5.000 - max- 6.000 words long (references excluded). The essay will be written in pairs.

Additionally, in order to assess the individual participation of each student in the preparation of the presentations, each student is required to write a separate **self-evaluation** paper between 750 and 1.000 words long (references excluded), **individually**. Such self-evaluation paper shall address all of the following issues:

- a) *Explain your own initiatives to the joint work*
- b) *Precise your share of the work*
- c) *Evaluate the outcome of your paper*

The correct use of a reference system is required for both essay and self-evaluation paper. The standard used at the Department is provided by the Chicago Manual of Style (<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>).

Deadline of submission for both essay and self-evaluation paper is **May 30, no later than 18:00**. Submission will only be accepted through the course's website in Athena. Please submit **only** Word documents, number every page and do not exceed the word count. 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 approximately three weeks after the deadline.

Examination dates:

1. 2019-05-30, at 18:00: deadline for submission of home-exam (essay + self-evaluation paper)
 2. 2019-08-20, at 18:00: deadline for submission of re-take
-

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**.

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.

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.