



Santa Reparata International School of Art  
Course Syllabus

**Semester Course**

**Course Title:** Clothing and Society

**SRISA Course Number:** FDES 3201, SOCI 3201

**Maryville Course Number:** ARTH 261

**Credits:** 3, Contact Hours: 45

**1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This clothing and society course focuses on the socio-cultural significance of dress by offering students a framework for interpreting the meaning and use of clothing in their personal lives. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze clothing as a form of communication. Students will learn about the origins and functions of clothes, how garments affect personality, and how the roles of clothing in society from ancient times to the present affect people's lives.

**2. CONTENT INTRODUCTION**

Students will also study the most important historic periods of fashion and look closely at international contemporary clothing habits. In the course, students will examine the connection between the body and clothing, and will study the individual and social motivations for wearing clothes. During the course students will learn about the need for clothing, examining how clothing affects all aspects of ancient and modern society: from private and sexual life to the public and social spheres.

**3. PREREQUISITES**

There are no any pre-requisite for this course

**4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

At the successful completion of this course students will have:

- A general understanding of clothing systems and cultures as well as a broader view of the importance of the clothing industry.
- A more profound understanding of the impact of clothing in various societies.

They will be able to analyze dress as a communication system and recognize a variety of significant historic and ethnic costumes.

This course will give students an overview of the identification of clothing groups while introducing the different characteristics of the fashion system, such as: uniforms, noble and royal garments, costumes and social attire.

**5. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS**

The booklet for this course "Clothing and Society" will be provided by the Professor.

This is the list of books used for this course:

- The Importance of Wearing Clothes*, L. Langner, J. Robinson DesRCA, FrSA
- *The Style Engine, Spectacle, Identity, Design and Business*, The Monacelli Press
  - *Fashion, Desire and Anxiety, Image and Morality on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, R. Arnold, Rutgers University Press,
  - *Uniforme Ordine e Disordine, Pitti Immagine, Charta*
  - *Radical Fashion, Claire Wilcox, V&A*
  - *C 20<sup>th</sup> Fashion, L. Watson, Carlton*

- *Fashion, Italian Style, Valerie Steele..*  
*Plus other sources*

## 6. GRADING POLICY AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Mid-term and Final exams are mandatory: any students missing the mid-term text/critique will have their final grade lowered by two full letter grades, any students missing the final exam will get an “F” as final grade for the course.

Late work: assignments and projects must be turned in on time, students turning in late projects will receive a penalty of 5 points ( half letter grade) for each day the assignment is late.

### Credits and grades:

A	Excellent 4.0 (grade points awarded)
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	Above Average 3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	Average 2.0
C-	1.7
D	Below Average 1.0
F	Failure 0.0
W	Withdrawal 0.0

Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:

20%	Home work and assignments
25%	Mid-Term Exam
10%	Classroom participation and attendance.
45%	Final Exam (Final project 20% +25% final test)

## 7. PLAGIARISM AND COPYING

SRISA severally condemns ignorant plagiarism and copying during examinations. Any student that makes use of words or ideas taken from another person’s work without properly citing credit for the specific purpose of deceiving their professor will receive an automatic “F” on that assignment or exam. Should the offense be repeated, the student will receive an automatic “F” in the class. Students utilizing the strategy of appropriation in a work of visual art for political, religious or social reasons may do so. It is fundamental that students pursuing strategies of appropriation understand that in the United States *fair use* allows them to copy copyrighted material for a limited and "transformative" purpose. Given the complicated nature of how artists utilize appropriation in the 21st century, SRISA students are required to discuss ideas regarding fair use and copied imagery with their professors before turning in their assignment.

## 8. EXAMS

There are a Mid-term and a Final Exam for this course.

No make-ups are admitted for the exams and the dates of the exams CANNOT be changed for any reason. If a student is absent for the mid-term exam the final grade will be lowered of one full letter grade, if a student misses the Final exam the final grade will be “F”.

**Late work:** Assignments and projects must be turned in on time, students turning in late projects will receive a penalty of 5 points ( half letter grade) for each day the assignment is late.

In evaluating creative projects and exams it will be taken into consideration the fashion awareness, creativity, effort, class participation, and group critiques.

Mid-term and final exam will be structured as follows:

Mid-term exam: multiple choice plus picture identification test

Final exam: multiple choice plus picture identification test \*

\*A final project will be decided during the course.

## 9. ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR POLICY

Students are required to attend all classes. If you miss class without an excused absence your grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each unexcused absence. If you are ill you should obtain a doctor's note in order to receive an excused absence. Missing more than four classes will result in an "F" on your transcript.

Tardiness: After 20 minutes into class time, students are considered absent. Students who leave 20 minutes before class time ends will be considered absent. Excused absences require a doctor's note or a written note from the Director. Arriving in class unprepared to work is considered an unexcused absence.

### **Behaviour Policy:**

**A correct, active and responsible participation is strictly recommended.**

Students are required to behave properly within the school premises. Classrooms are to be left in order and clean. Students must take care of available equipment and materials and promptly report any damage or loss.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

- Use of cellular phone is prohibited during class time
- No eating in class.

### **Guidelines for visits:**

- Make sure you always have your map and know where to go!
- Make sure you know the exact meeting point each time and how to get there, be aware that there might be changes in the visit schedule.
- If there is an entrance fee to pay, please have the correct change ready.
- Don't burden yourselves with heavy bags, there is not always a place to check them in.
- No food or drinks (not even a small bottle of water) are allowed in museums or churches.
- Please do not be late at the meeting point, as class will not wait for you in order to start the visit.
- A late show will be treated as an absence
- As representative of the SRISA community, when out on visits students are expected to behave considerately.
- If a visit takes place outside the class hours it is still a commitment.

## 10. COURSE CALENDAR

### WEEK 1

Introduction to the course, explain syllabus and exams.

**Special Filed trip to Pitti Filati Fashion Fair ( 25 euro) tbc**

**Pasquetta class make-up day**

### WEEK 2

The absence of clothing: the nudism.Body modifications.

Booklet section I

Documentary : Girl Model

**Special filed trip to the Costume Gallery at Pitti Palace**

### WEEK 3

Before clothing, body ornaments and decorations, the need of clothing

The look that makes you feel happy.

Booklet section II

#### WEEK 4

The evolution of clothing: the first dresses

The importance of details historical references

Booklet section III

Roles and functions of clothing: clothes to distinguish the sexes.

Booklet section IV

#### FWEEK 5

Womenswear : modern style and old hampering

Women issues: the concept of the necessary mother.

Movie: Marie Antoniette

Assignment on modern women hampering "beautiful and so uncomfortable"

#### WEEK 6

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Evolution of man and women clothing: Coco Chanel and Giorgio Armani

Booklet section V

#### WEEK 7

Review for midterm exam

**Mid term exam**

#### **Break**

#### WEEK 8

The new man vanity and dress codes.

The power dress. Customer profile

Booklet section VI

Dress to feel different and unique. The birth of individual style and the trendsetter.

Booklet section VI

#### WEEK 9

Dress to feel part of a group, social and political movements.

Focus on Punks- Booklet section VII

The Power of uniforms Assignment: create uniforms that play with the social, historical and sexual roles and give a description of it.

#### WEEK 10

Contemporary Industry and its impact on society

The True Cost

#### WEEK 11

The fashion designer: from tailor to super star- Trademarks an fashion labels

Booklet section IX

From Clothing to Fashion

#### WEEK 12

Fashion and Spectacle: Mass Media and Runway Presentations

Booklet section X

Why people "hate" fashion,Who is the "Fashion Victim"

Booklet section XI

#### WEEK 13

Conclusions and Review for final exam

#### WEEK 14

**Final Exam**

## **11. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

SRISA strives to foster an all-inclusive learning environment that best caters to its students' needs. While faculty frequently work one-on-one with students, there are some situations in which special accommodations are required. Should a student have any academic accommodations regarding test taking or otherwise, they must present an official letter from their home University to the SRISA Director within the first week of class stating the accommodations.

## **12. DISCLAIMER**

This Syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of any changes.