

The Sociology of Fashion: Are You In or Out?

SOC 198 | Spring 2017

Room S301 and S201 | TTh 12:30-1:20pm

Instructor: Jennifer Lê
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Office Hours:
10:30-11:30pm Daily
and by appointment



Course Description and Goals

Fashion is more than just clothes. It is about culture, expression, consumption, individuality, innovation, oppression, and art. This class will explore the world of fashion and everything that it entails from a critical, sociological perspective through in depth discussion.

To make appointments, please go to drle.youcanbook.me or scan the code above. Download a free QR Code Reader from your App Store to scan this.

Course Outcomes

After completing this course, successful students should be able to:

- Discuss how the fashion industry is influenced by and influences social norms
- Describe the ways in which our culture and society shape fashion
- Illustrate how fashion can be stratifying and political on multiple levels
- Recognize how sex and sexualities are marketed, packaged and sold by society; and
- Critically examine how fashion can regulate social behavior.

Required Text and Readings

All readings for the course will be available through our Canvas course in the Files tab (in the Readings folder). There is no textbook for this course.

Attendance

Attendance is **required**. Students are allowed to miss ONE class period without documentation. All other absences must be excused absences; please review the Bellevue College Student Rules on excused absences. More than one undocumented absences will result in a reduction of your overall grade, taken from your overall participation score for the course in direct proportion to the number of classes missed. If you miss zero to one classes, you will not be penalized. If you miss more than one class, you will lose points for each day absent which can account for up to a full letter grade reduction. If you miss over one-third of classes, a further 1/3 letter grade deduction will be taken out of your grade. Notecards will be used to keep track of attendance (see course requirements).

Classroom Policies

Please silence cell phones before the beginning of class. Students whose cell phones ring in class or who I see using their mobile devices will receive no points for that day's class participation. Students are permitted to use computers to take notes if they wish. However, note taking is the **only** activity allowed during class. If any students engage in other activities on their computers during class meetings they will receive a zero for that day's class participation after one warning.

As this is a college course, this classroom shall be treated as a professional environment. I expect everyone to be respectful of others. There will be zero tolerance for disrespect including but not limited to racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, and heterosexism.

Course Requirements

QQCs

(360 points total, 20 points each)

Each class day, we will have a reading or readings assigned. Each student will have 1) completed the assigned reading(s) and 2) come with a printed list of at least 4 in-depth discussion questions, quotations, and comments (hence, QQCs). These questions should be thoughtful. Types of questions may include specific passages that troubled you or puzzled you and why, a further analysis of the material, connections to outside academic/news/literary sources (must be cited), social trends, or classes you have taken, or “big picture” questions that interrogate the author’s claims. Other options are to include quotations that you found interesting (and why) and comments or reactions to a particular section of a reading. You should include at least two different strategies from above in each assignment. These are due each class day but your lowest grade will be dropped.

Discussion Leadership

(100 points total, 50 points each)

Each student will serve as a discussion leader twice during the semester (depending on student enrollment). The same discussion document (above) will be expected of the leader. The discussion leader will present an overview of the reading(s) to the group. This overview should include important theories or concepts, potential links among the readings, and/or note questions that they were left with as a result of the reading. The discussion leader will then guide group discussion of the topics using their discussion questions and soliciting further discussion from what other students have prepared.

Attendance and Participation

(190 points, 10 points per class)

Participation in group discussions will be based on the following:

Null	The student does not participate at all in class discussions.
Limited	The student participates in class and group discussions very few times, only offering short, perfunctory responses.
Basic	The student’s contributions to class discussion are limited to asking elementary questions about the course material and readings.
Basic+	The student makes an earnest effort to participate in class discussions, but these contributions are limited to questions about the readings and course material.
Proficient	The student regularly makes insightful comments in class, raises important questions about the course material, and engages other students in discussion.
Exceptional	The student constantly pushes her/his understanding of the course material with thought-provoking comments. It is obvious that the student is honing her/his critical-thinking skills with the exceptional questions she/he raises.

Fashionology Paper

(380 points)

You will be required to write a mini-research paper throughout the term. It will be broken up into chunks. You may write on any topic related to fashion that you wish. However, the paper should be about a topic or issue you are bothered with, is controversial, or is something that puzzles you. This is not a history paper or a personal essay but one that investigates something about fashion as an institutionalized system. Additional information regarding each assignment will be discussed in class. The final paper will be 4-6 pages in length.

Topic Selection Short Paper – 25 points

Annotated Bibliography – 50 points

Detailed Outline – 50 points

First Draft – 75 points

Peer Review/Edit – 15 points

Peer Review/Edit – 15 points
Final Paper – 150 points
Total: 380 points

Midterm Check-In Meeting
(20 points)

Students are required to attend class. Attendance will be taken through the submission of daily assignments.

During weeks 5-7 of the course, you are required to set up a meeting with Dr. Lê during her office hours. Use the code from the first page of the syllabus or go to drle.youcanbook.me to schedule it. These meetings will be up to 10 minutes in length.

Please keep in mind that you are expected to keep up with the readings through the term. All students are expected to have read the assigned material **before** each class meeting. Attendance is always helpful (and required) to get a better understanding of the material. Please note that a few points can make a difference. I want you to do your very best in this course, and I will help all students as much as I can.

Grades

Your grade will consist of the following:

TOTAL: 1000 points

A = 930 - 1000+

A- = 900 - 929

B+ = 870 - 899

B = 830 - 869

B- = 800 - 829

C+ = 770 - 799

C = 730 - 769

C- = 700 - 729

D+ = 670 - 699

D = 630 - 669

D- = 600 - 629

F = 0 - 599

QQCs – 360 points (20 points each) = 36%

Discussion Leadership – 50 points each = 5%

Fashionology Paper – 380 points = 38%

Topic Selection Short Paper – 25 points

Annotated Bibliography – 50 points

Detailed Outline with Bibliography – 50 points

First Draft – 75 points

Peer Review/Edit 1 – 15 points

Peer Review/Edit 2 – 15 points

Final Paper – 150 points

Attendance and Participation – 190 points (10 points each) = 19%

Midterm Check-In Meeting – 20 points = 2%

Note: There will be no curve in this class, including for single assignments. Your grade is what you earn.

Late Policy

Assignments

Any missed assignments not pre-approved by the instructor must accompany an approved excuse in order for an extended due date to be given.

Unapproved absences will result in zeros on assignments and **cannot** be made up. Approved absences include school-sponsored event participation, hospitalization, childbirth, major accident or injury, or bereavement. It is the student's responsibility to provide the instructor appropriate documentation within a reasonable timeframe. The only exceptions to this policy are late papers, which will receive a 10% deduction per day late, or presentations, which will receive a 10% deduction per day late if class days remain.

Tentative Schedule

HOW TO READ THE SCHEDULE BELOW:

Day of the Week
Topic
Discussion Leader
Reading Due Before Class
Assignment Due

<i>Week One – April 3-7</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R – S301	F
	Intro to the class and Sociological Imagination		What is fashion?	
			Dr. Lê	
	No reading		Kawamura 1 AND 2	

<i>Week Two – April 10-14</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R – S201	F
	Gender		Gender	
	Julia		Rimen	
	Dahl AND Dockterman		Bartky AND Lawless	

<i>Week Three – April 17-21</i>				
M	T – S201	W	R – S301	F
	Presidential Fashion		Political Fashion	
	Jamison		Dr. Lê	
	Crane 1 AND Clark AND Givhan		Crane 2 AND Robinson	
			Topic Selection DUE	

<i>Week Four – April 24-28</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R – S301	F
	Political Identities		Political Identities	
	Dr. Lê		Paige	
	Enstad AND Pham		Hillman AND LeBlanc	

<i>Week Five – May 1-5</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R	F
	Social Class		NO CLASS	
	Ericka		(our class only)	
	Crane 3 AND Conroy			
Midterm Check-In Meetings BEGIN			Annotated Bibliography DUE	

<i>Week Six – May 8-12</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R – S301	F
	Social Class		Economics/Markets	
	Leina		Dr. Lê	
	Han, Nunes, + Drèze AND Kawamura		Aspers AND Lee AND Lieber	

<i>Week Seven – May 15-19</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R – S301	F
	Globalization		Personification	
	Erin		Cienna	
	Hansen AND Nagel		Kawamura 3 AND The Cut	
			Outline DUE	Midterm Meetings DUE

<i>Week Eight – May 22-26</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R – S301	F
	Diffusion and Consumption		Modeling	
	Jamison (maybe)		Tiantian	
	Kawamura 4 AND 5		Czerniawski AND Haidarali	
			First Draft DUE	

<i>Week Nine – May 29 – June 2</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R – S301	F
NO CLASS (college-wide)	Fashion as Art		Social Control	
	Molly		Amber	
	Crane 4 AND Miller		Leader AND McVeigh	
			Peer Reviews DUE	

<i>Week Ten – June 5-9</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R – S301	F
	Social Change		TBD	
	Akemi			
	Crane 5 AND Dixon AND Kawamura			

<i>Week Eleven – June 12-16 – Final Exam Week</i>				
M	T – S301	W	R – 11:30-1:20pm	F
	TBD	NO CLASS	Meet to discuss final papers	NO CLASS
		(final exams)		(final exams)
			Final Paper DUE	

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Disability Resource Center

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at

http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Copyright Notice

All documents disseminated by your instructor are under copyright by said instructor. Any re-use or distribution of these materials outside of our classroom without permission is copyright infringement and is considered a crime.

Final Comments

It is my goal to make this course worth your time and effort. Therefore, I will do all that is reasonable and within my power to ensure that you learn and succeed. If you are concerned with any aspect of this course please feel free to contact me.