

You Are What You Wear: Just Fashion
FYSE 134 Fall 2018

FYSE 134: MW 2:00-3:15
FYSS 101: Thurs 4:05-4:55

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Course Description:

In this course, we will study the history of clothing making and the just and unjust practices of global clothing manufacturing. We will examine the movements for sustainable production of cloth, organic fiber gardening, the use of natural dyes, and the history of cotton and indigo farming in the South, especially in Charleston. Other topics include the movement of “slow fashion,” and subversive art in clothing, textiles and embroidery. We will also study religious ritual garments, the Muslim hijab and Gandhi’s practice of cotton spinning.

Required Readings:

Andrea Feeser, *Red, White and Black Make Blue: Indigo in the Fabric of Colonial South Carolina Life*, University of Georgia Press, 2013

James Agee, *Cotton Tenants: Three Families*, Melville House Publishing, Brooklyn NY, 2013

Electronic readings on OAKS

Course Requirements:

Three Exams (300 points)
Three 2-3 Page papers (60 points)
Successful Completion of your FYSS (40 points)

Grading:

Each set of 100 points will be worth 25% of the final grade.
Numerical and letter grades will be based upon the following scale:

	A	100-92	A-	91-89	
B+	88-86	B	85-82	B-	81-79
C+	78-76	C	75-72	C-	71-69
D+	68-66	D	65-62	D-	61-59
F	-58				

FYE Student Learning outcomes:

1. Students will be able to identify and use the appropriate academic resources and student support services at College of Charleston (including Addlestone library, information technology, the Center for Student Learning, the Career Center, and other appropriate academic resources, student support services, and cultural resources).

This will be assessed with an end of semester exam in the First Year Synthesis Seminar course.

2. Students will be able to use appropriate tools and search strategies for identifying particular types of information specific to the discipline; Evaluate the relevance, quality, and appropriateness of different sources of information; Recognize and classify the information contained within a bibliographic citation; Access and use information ethically and legally.

This will be assessed with a source identification and source relevance activity that will be part of the FYE embedded librarian session.

3. Faculty will use writing, speech, or media in innovative ways to achieve integrative learning by students. By the completion on the first-year, a student will be able to...use appropriate critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques in appropriate disciplinary contexts and make connections across disciplines and/or relevant experiences.

A Sustainability Focused Course

Sustainability Learning Outcomes:

SLO #1: Identify various elements of sustainability and relationships between them.

SLO #2: Identify key ways to be more sustainable in personal life and on-campus.

Assignment: Your assignment is to choose an article of clothing or pair of shoes from your closet and research the practices of the manufacturer. Prompt and rubric to follow.

Course Schedule and Assignments:

“Sustainable fashion is thus partly about producing clothes, shoes and accessories in environmentally and socio-economically sustainable manners, but also about more sustainable patterns of consumption and use, which necessitate shifts in individual attitudes and behaviour.” ~ GreenStrategy.se

8/22 Course introduction and syllabus

8/27 Introduction to Sustainability: Guest speaker, Jennifer Michelle Saunders, Zero Waste Program Manager, Office of Sustainability and Adjunct Professor, Environmental Studies and Sustainability

8/29 Introduction: Sustainability Issues with “Fast Fashion”

In Class Video: Tamara Jones “Life in the Slow Lane,”

Robin Mellery-Pratt, *Five Sustainability Threats Facing Fashion*, (OAKS)

Kate Abnett, *Three Years After Rana Plaza, Has Anything Changed?* (OAKS)

9/03-05 In Class Video: *The True Cost* (92 min)

9/10 Discussion on *The True Cost*

**** 9/12 Paper #1 Due: Personal Style Statement** See prompt #1

A History of Clothing

“Why do people wear the clothes they do? Why do people wear clothes at all?” ~ Elizabeth Wayland Barber

9/17 Clothing Timeline- The Beginning

“More Than Hearts on Our Sleeves,” Elizabeth Wayland Barber, from *Women’s Work: The First 20,000 Years*, pp. 127-146. (OAKS)

9/19 Clothing Timeline- America

“A Stitch in Time,” Susan Strasser, from *Never Done: A History of American Housework*, pp. 125-144. (OAKS)

**** 9/23 Sunday matinee @ 2:00 The CofC Theater Department production of Rough Magic Emmett Robinson Theatre**

Tickets for the play will be provided by the FYE Program.

9/24 Guest speaker, Janine McCabe, Associate Professor of Costume Design, CofC

9/26 Site Visit: Class will meet at Room 218 of the Simons Art Center for a tour of the CofC Theater Department Costume Shop with Ellen Swick, Costume Shop Manager.

10/01 First Exam

10/03 Library Research Visit

The class will meet in Room 122 at Addlestone Library

Cotton

“Also, cotton plants are low, so that in this heat and immanent weight of light and the heavying sack you are dragging, you are continuously stooped over even if you are a child, and bent very deep if you are a man or a woman.” James Agee

10/08 In Class Video: *History of Cotton*

“The Silent Issue at the Constitutional Convention,” Gene Dattel, Chapter 1 from *Cotton and Race in the Making of America* (OAKS)

Cotton Tenants, James Agee, Introduction and Chapter 1

Cotton in the South

“Picking is simple and terrible work. Skill will help you; endurance will come in handy; but neither makes it a bit easier. Over your right shoulder you have slung a long sack that trails to the ground. You work with both hands as fast and as steadily as you can.” ~ James Agee

10/10 *Cotton Tenants*, Chapters 3 & 4

10/15 *Cotton Tenants*, Chapters 5 & 6

10/17-22 **Sewing: That’s right. You’re going to sew.**

“They never did like Mama’s homemade dress. Papa’s bank book wasn’t big enough.” Bob Dylan

“Make, Alter and Mend,” Elizabeth Cline, from *Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion*, pp. 187-206. (OAKS)

**** 10/24 Paper #2 Due— Who Made Your Clothes?**

This is the paper connected to our library research visit and Sustainability SLOs. Prompt to follow.

10/29 Second Exam

Dyeing/Indigo

“Blue was the most popular color of the eighteenth century. It symbolized the elite (as in the phrase blue blood) and the everyday person (evident in the practice of workers donning blue aprons).” Andrea Feeser

10/31 In Class Video: *Blue Alchemy: Stories of Indigo Red, White and Black Make Blue*, Chapter 1

**** 11/05 No Class- Fall Break**

11/07 History of Indigo in South Carolina
Red, White and Black Make Blue, Chapters 3 & 4

11/12 Skype visit with Andrea Feeser (hopefully)
Red, White and Black Make Blue, Chapters 5, 6 & 7

11/14 Natural Dyeing Workshop

11/19 Subversive Fashion
“Protest- The Cradle to Fashion’s Subversive Culture,” @ AO London (OAKS)
“A Naturally Revolutionary Art?”, Rozsika Parker from *The Subversive Stitch* (OAKS)

11/21 Fashion and Gender

**** 11/26 Paper #3 Due: Creative Project**

11/26 “Sacred” Garments and Gandhi’s Spinning Wheel

11/28 Muslim hijab

In Class Video: *(un)veiled: Muslim Women Talk About Hijab* (Kanopy Streaming)

12/03 Last Day of Class and Clothing Swap

Third Exam: Wednesday, 12/12 @ 12:00

Please Note: From the Faculty Administration Manual, Section VIII. A. 11

11. Final Examinations and Final Course Grades: Prior to each final examination period, an examination schedule is published by the Registrar’s Office. Final examinations must be administered only at the time and place stated on the Examinations Schedule, except by written permission of the relevant campus authority.

** This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Additional Course Notes

Attendance Policy

Class attendance and participation are mandatory. **Therefore, be advised that four absences will be allowed. Five or more absences may result in a lower final grade but MAY be excused with proper medical documentation. Seven absences will result in your being dropped from the class, which will earn you an F for the course. Per the FYE Office, four absences from your synthesis seminars will result in failure for the FYSS course. Two absences from synthesis seminars will count towards one absence from your MW class meeting times. Please note: your successful completion of the FYSS is factored into your grade for the FYSE.** A memo from CofC Health Services does NOT *automatically* qualify as an ‘excused absence.’ Final determination of an excused absence always lies with the instructor.

SNAP If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodation, please present a letter from the Center for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester. For more information regarding accommodation and the SNAP program, see: <http://www.cofc.edu/~cgs/index.htm>.

Honor Code The Code of Honor found in the Student Handbook will be strictly enforced. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and WILL be reported to the Honor Board. According to the Student Handbook plagiarism *includes but is not limited to*:

* The verbatim repetition, without acknowledgement, of the writings of another author. All significant phrases, clauses, or passages, taken directly from source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself or in footnotes/endnotes.

* Borrowing without acknowledging the source.

* Paraphrasing the thoughts of another writer without acknowledgement.

* Allowing any other person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his/her own.

Writing Lab

I encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library, first floor). Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses; they offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, please call 843.953.5635 or visit <http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/writing-lab/>.

Classroom Code of Conduct

—Selections taken from the Student Handbook, published by the President's Advisory Committee in cooperation with the Office of the President.

Your professor expects that you as a student:

1. Will be attentive and courteous during class.
2. Will complete the assigned work according to the course schedule.
3. Do not cut classes, come in late, or leave early. If you ever are late for class, enter in complete silence and do not walk between the class and the professor. Never leave during class unless you absolutely must. Leaving for a short break and then returning is not acceptable. The professor is not a TV set, but is a person addressing the class, and it is rude to leave when someone is addressing you.
- 4. Turn off cell phones, pagers, and all other electronic devices. Should you need to leave the classroom during an exam, you will be required to leave your cell phone with the Instructor.**
5. Visible and noisy signs of restlessness are rude as well as disruptive to others. If you cannot sit still or stay awake, you should not be taking a college class. Do not begin packing your book bag or otherwise indicate that you think it is time for class to come to an end; wait for the professor to dismiss class. If the class period has ended but the professor has not finished and you cannot stay any longer, leave in complete silence.