

Fashion and Textiles (A005636)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	lecture	0.0h
			excursion	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Serulus, Nina	LW17	staff member
Bass-Krueger, Maude	LW17	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme Art Studies	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Art History, Musicology and Theatre Studies	5	A
Elective Set Art Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

textile histories, fashion histories, fashion studies, global histories, histories of techniques, object analysis, material culture; gender history, social history, colonial and imperial histories

Position of the course

This course offers students a historical overview of textiles and fashion from antiquity to the present, with a global perspective on the development of materials, techniques, and styles. Students will engage with key themes such as trade, labor, colonialism, and sustainability, gaining insight into how textiles and fashion have shaped and been shaped by social, cultural, and political forces. By the end of the course, students will have acquired a specialized vocabulary and critical tools to analyze textile and fashion objects in their material and historical contexts.

Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

- Acquire knowledge of the histories of textiles and fashion from ancient civilizations to the present, with attention to materials, techniques, style, and global trade networks.
- Develop a vocabulary for analyzing textile and fashion objects, including fibers, weaves, dyeing, embroidery, printing, sewing, and finishing techniques.
- Analyze textiles and fashion through critical frameworks of class, race, gender, and colonialism, with a focus on both historical and contemporary contexts.

Initial competences

No previous knowledge or expertise of fashion or textiles is required.

Final competences

- 1 Identify key fabrics (cotton, wool, silk, linen, synthetic fibers) and recognize techniques such as weaving, knitting, printing, embroidery, and dyeing.
- 2 Discuss the global histories of textiles and fashion from ancient civilizations,

including Egypt, to the present day.

- 3 Accurately situate fashionable silhouettes within their historical periods, from circa 1500 to today.
- 4 Critically analyze textiles and fashion through the lenses of class, race, gender, and colonialism.
- 5 Evaluate the use and significance of visual, material, and textual sources in constructing fashion and textile histories.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

This course combines lectures, guest lectures by fashion and museum professionals, close readings of historical and theoretical texts, and site visits to museums, collections, and workshops. Students are encouraged to actively participate in discussions that connect materials and techniques to broader social, cultural, and historical themes. Attendance is strongly recommended, as in-class engagement and peer dialogue are essential to developing the analytical skills emphasized in the course. Lectures take place on campus, without recording.

Study material

Type: Handouts

Name: Various articles and book chapters

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Type: Excursion

Name: Museum visit

Indicative price: € 15

Optional: no

References

Course content-related study coaching

Questions can be asked by e-mail. Appointments can be made with the professor during office hours: <https://calendly.com/maude-basskrueger>

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The final exam will be an in-person written exam with multiple choice questions, open answer questions, visual identification, and essay questions.

Calculation of the examination mark

Participation in the scheduled excursion—or, if necessary, completion of an approved individual visit—is mandatory. Students who do not complete this requirement will not receive a final exam grade and will be marked as "Not Completed." The excursion is considered an essential component of the course and

must be fulfilled in order to pass.

Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance is strongly recommended. Occasional absences are permitted, but frequent absence may impact your ability to follow and complete assignments successfully.
- Lectures are not recorded; students are responsible for catching up on any missed content.
- Participation in the scheduled excursion is mandatory. If a student cannot attend, they must visit the site independently and provide documentation or reflection as instructed.
- Rescheduling of the exam is possible during the official examination period in case of valid academic or personal circumstances.
- Feedback is available by email or appointment, including outside of standard office hours when necessary.