# History of Costume and Fashion

## Prof. Gian Luca Bovenzi

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

Course aims

The aim of the course is to provide students with the tools to gain a general understanding of the phenomenon of fashion in society from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, its meaning, its historical and artistic value and its cultural and aesthetic interpretation.

By the end of the course, students will know:

The key history of both male and female fashion from the 15th to the 20th century, especially in Italy, with a particular focus on the evolution of clothing style and materials.

The different sources that may be used, such as clothing and accessories, iconographic sources (fashion services and photographs, films, magazines, figurines, photographs and paintings), written sources (novels, articles, inventories and documents).

The correct interpretation of the different sources.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Recognize the elements and trends of clothing worn in the West, particularly in Italy, between the 15th and 20th centuries, and describe them using correct technical vocabulary.

Use knowledge of fashion to contextualize a work historically, socially and chronologically.

Interpret the “fashion phenomenon” from a historical, cultural and artistic point of view.

They will also be able to communicate information and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is structured as follows:

Presentation of the course, analysis of content on the reading list and analysis of the role of fashion in Western society. Origin and spread of the phenomenon of fashion from the fifteenth to the twentieth century.

Use of iconographic and written sources.

Analysis of the material and technical aspects of fashion: fibres, armour and fabrics; embroidery and lace; knitting; leather and fur.

The sumptuary laws

Analysis of women's and men's fashion between the fifteenth and twentieth centuries.

***READING LIST***

Required reading:

Giorgio Riello, *La moda. Una storia dal Medioevo a oggi,* Edizioni Laterza, Rome-Bari 2012 (or subsequent editions).

Renata Ago, *Il linguaggio del corpo*, in Carlo Marco Belfanti, Fabio Giusberti (ed.), *Storia d’Italia. Annali 19. La moda*, Einaudi, Turin 2003, pp. 117-147.

Vincenza Maugeri, Angela Paffumi, *Storia della moda e del Costume*, Calderini, Milan 2012 (or subsequent editions).

Cristina Bragaglia Venuti, *Indispensabili o superflui? Gli accessori della mostra tra storia, funzionalità ed estetica nelle collezioni della famiglia Coronini*, in Cristina Bragaglia Venuti (ed.), *L’indispensabile superfluo. Accessori della moda nelle collezioni della famiglia Coronini*, exhibition catalogue, Leg edizioni, Gorizia 2019, pp. 19-93.

Maria Giuseppina Muzzarelli, *Le leggi suntuarie*, in Carlo Marco Befanti, Fabio Giusberti (ed.), *Storia d’Italia. Annali 19. La moda*, Einaudi, Turin 2003, pp. 185-220.

Recommended reading

Donata Devoti, Giovanni Romano (ed.), *Tessuti antichi nelle chiese di Arona*, exhibition catalogue, Turin 1981

Details of further reading materials may be indicated during the lessons, based on the interests and specific needs of the students.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures with slideshow presentations and discussion on specific topics. All slides viewed during the course will be shared with students.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is divided into two mandatory parts for all students.

A written examination (partial test) consisting of ten multiple choice questions (one correct answer out of three choices) relating to the topics covered during the course, particularly those covered in the texts indicated on the reading list and analyzed during lectures.

An oral examination focused on analysing two images, one depicting men’s clothing and one women’s, from the slides shown in class, and finally a question on one of the texts cited in the reading list.

The twelve closed questions in the written test will be of equal weight, marked from 0 (no answer or incorrect answer) to 1 (correct answer). There will be a single final mark based on the mark awarded for the written test (60%) and for the oral exam (40%: 20% image analysis, 20% question on the texts cited on the reading list).

In the written exam, students must first demonstrate that they have learned and assimilated the information and themes covered in class and present in the required reading. In the oral exam they must demonstrate their ability to navigate between the topics and issues discussed in class, and to distinguish and recognize the particular characteristics of clothing at a given time, using appropriate and correct language and vocabulary. The assessment criteria are as follows: quality of presentation, appropriate use of specific terminology and structured and coherent discourse.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Although not mandatory, attendance is strongly encouraged.

The teaching material produced during the course and any material relevant to the exam will be made available online.

Students with particular needs or interests are requested to contact the lecturer.

During the course, details of further reading material will be provided based on the specific interests of the students.

*Prerequisites*

There are no prerequisites in terms of contents. Students should also be interested in and intellectually curious about the subject.

Further information can be found on the lecturer’s webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENGor on the Faculty notice board.