

ARTH 385 - African Dress and Fashion

Course description

“This course provides a critical examination of historical and contemporary African dress and fashion, a dynamic area of study and research focusing on Africa's most fundamental and universal form of aesthetic practice and visual display. The course will address: the cultural, gendered, life-cycle, and political significance of local dress traditions; the politics of dress and fashion in colonial, Independence-era, postcolonial, and neocolonial contexts; and processes of transcultural exchange and cosmopolitanism in historical and contemporary dress and fashion. The academic study of African dress and fashion is strongly interdisciplinary, combining approaches developed in the fields of art history, anthropology, dress and fashion studies, history, and gender and women's studies. Course reading assignments are designed to increase critical skills in reading and analyzing selected case studies from this multidisciplinary perspective.”

Tentative reading list

Allman, Jean. 2004. “‘Let Your Fashion Be in Line with Our Ghanaian Costume’: Nation, Gender, and the Politics of Cloth-ing in Nkrumah’s Ghana.” In *Fashioning Africa: Power and the Politics of Dress*, Jean Allman, ed., pp. 144-165. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Bishop, Catherine. 2014. “African Occasional Textiles: Vernacular Landscapes of Development.” *African Arts* 47 (4): 72-85.

Byfield, Judith. 2004. “Dress and Politics in Post-World War II Abeokuta (Western Nigeria).” In *Fashioning Africa: Power and the Politics of Dress*, Jean Allman, ed., pp. 31-49. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Daly, Catherine, Joanne Eicher, and Tonye Erekosima. 1986. “Male and Female Artistry in Kalabari Dress.” *African Arts* 19 (3): 48-51, 83.

Daly, Catherine. 1987. “Iria Bo Appearance at Kalabari Funerals.” *African Arts* 21 (1): 58-61, 86.

Domowitz, Susan. 1992. “Wearing Proverbs: Anyi Names for Printed Factory Cloth.” *African Arts* 25 (3): 82-87, 104.

Geary, Christraud. 1996. “Political Dress: German-Style Military Attire and Colonial Politics in Bamum,” In *African Crossroads: Intersections between History and Anthropology in Cameroon*, Ian Fowler and David Zeitlyn, eds., pp. 165-192. Providence, RI: Berghahn Books.

Gilvin, Amanda. 2014. “Hot and Haute: Alphadi’s Fashion for Peace.” *African Arts* 47 (2): 40-55.

Gondola, Didier. 2010. “*La Sape* Exposed! High Fashion among Lower-Class Congolese Youth: From Colonial Modernity to Global Cosmopolitanism.” In *Contemporary African Fashion*, Suzanne Gott and Kristyne Loughran, pp. 157-174. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Gott, Suzanne. 2017. "'Life' Dressing in Kumasi: African-Print Style in 'Popular' Fashion." In *African-Print Fashion Now! A Story of Taste, Globalization, and Style*, Suzanne Gott, Kristyne Loughran, Betsy Quick, and Leslie Rabine, eds., pp. 138-155. Fowler Museum Textile Series 14. Los Angeles: Fowler Museum at UCLA.

Gott, Suzanne, and Kristyne Loughran. 2017. "Visco—Rebranding into Fashion." In *African-Print Fashion Now! A Story of Taste, Globalization, and Style*, Suzanne Gott, Kristyne Loughran, Betsy Quick, and Leslie Rabine, eds., pp. 204-223. Fowler Museum Textile Series 14. Los Angeles: Fowler Museum at UCLA.

Grabski, Joanna. 2009. "Making Fashion in the City: A Case Study of Tailors and Designer in Dakar, Senegal." *Fashion Theory* 13 (2): 215-242.

Green, Rebecca. 2010. "From Cemetery to Runway: Dress and Identity in Highland Madagascar." In *Contemporary African Fashion*, Suzanne Gott and Kristyne Loughran, pp. 139-153. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Hansen, Karen Tranberg. 2005. "Crafting Appearances: The Second Hand Clothing Trade and Dress Practices in Zambia." In *Old Clothes, New Looks: Second Hand Fashion*, Alexandra Palmer and Hazel Clark, eds., pp. 103-117. Oxford: Berg Publishers.

Mehunu, Khaya, and Busisiwe Memela. 2019. "Fashioning Resistance: The Unsung Fashions of Miriam 'Mama Africa' Makeba," *Alternation Special Edition* 26: 71-97.

McNaughton, Patrick. 1982. "The Shirts That Mande Hunters Wear." *African Arts* 15 (3):54-58, 91.

Nwafor, Okechukwu. 2012. "Of Mutuality and Copying: Fashioning *Aso Ebi* through Fashion Magazines in Lagos." *Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body, and Culture* 16 (4): 493-520.

Ong'oa-Morara, Rose. 2014. "One Size Fits All: The Fashionable Kanga of Zanzibari Women." *Fashion Theory: The Journal of Dress, Body, and Culture* 18 (1): 73-95.

Rovine, Victoria. 2004. "Fashionable Traditions: The Globalization of an African Textile." In *Fashioning Africa: Power and the Politics of Dress*, Jean Allman, ed., pp. 189-211. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Rovine, Victoria. 2015. "Conceptual Fashion: Evocations of Africa." In *African Fashion, Global Style: Histories, Innovations, and Ideas You Can Wear*, pp. 157-189. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.