

FACULTY OF ARTS AND LETTERS

DEGREE COURSE: FASHION AND DESIGN B.A

SUBJECT: ANTHROPOLOGY AND FASHION ANTHROPOLOGY

LECTURER: ANDREA GUASPARRI

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(prof. Guasparri replies to his students by email every Monday, from 14 to 15)

Office hours: Prof. Guasparri is glad to meet students once a month in Novedrate (students should check date and time monthly)

OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the course is to introduce students to the points of view and methods of cultural anthropology while emphasizing the fundamental properties of Culture in our species. This allows for reaching a second fundamental objective: defining fashion as a complex anthropological category and watching it at work within different human cultures through the analysis of specific case studies.

CONTENTS

The course will cover the following main topics:

1. Defining culture
2. Theories of culture
3. Anthropological analysis
4. The tools of culture
5. Social forms of human interdependence
6. Interpreting cultural transformation among human groups
7. Evolution (biological and cultural)
8. A brief history of anthropology
9. The social person
10. Fashion and culture (1): theory and analysis of a complex cultural category
11. Fashion and culture (2): case studies
12. Fashion and culture (3): case studies

ASSESSMENT

The final exam consists of an interview on:

- a. the topics covered in the 96 online lessons;
- b. the topics covered in the textbook.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

Monaghan J., Just, P. (2000) *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2000.

FURTHER OPTIONAL READING LIST

Bernard, H. R., *Research methods in anthropology: qualitative and quantitative approaches* - 4th ed., Altamira Press, Lanham, 2006

Rabinow, P., Marcus, G., Faubion, J., Rees, T., *Designs for an anthropology of the contemporary*, Duke university press, Durham and London, 2008

Optional bibliography on key aspects and topics will be suggested during the seminars.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

It is mandatory to study each single online lesson (and remember to complete the self-evaluation tests!) and the textbook. Attendance at the seminars is highly recommended (at least the seminar before the examination: for example, students who want to take the exam in March have to attend the seminar in January).
