Course Description Form

Course number and section: ARTH 385 001
Course Topic: African Dress and Fashion
Credits: 3-0-0

Term: Term 2

Instructor: Suzanne Gott

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. 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. Reading assignments are designed to increase critical skills in reading and analyzing selected case studies from a multidisciplinary perspective, combining art history, anthropology, and fashion studies.

Tentative Reading List:

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.

Eicher, Joanne, and Tonye Erekosima. 1995. "Why Do They Call it Kalabari? Cultural Authentication and the Demarcation of Ethnic Identity." In *Dress and Ethnicity: Change Across Space and Time,* Joanne Eicher, pp. 139-164. Oxford: Berg Publishers.

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. 2009. "Asante Hightimers and the Fashionable Display of Women's Wealth in Contemporary Ghana." Fashion Theory 13 (2): 141-176.

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. "Vlisco—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.

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.

Ivaska, Andrew. 2003. "'Anti-Mini Militants Meet Modern Misses': Urban Style, Gender, and the Politics of 'National Culture' in 1960s Dar es Salaam, Tanzania." In *Fashioning Africa: Power and the Politics of Dress,* Jean Allman, eds., 104-121. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Kraamer .Malika. 2022. "Beloved, Ignored, and Contested: The Politics of Kente in Ghana since the 1960s" In *Creating African Fashion Histories,* JoAnn McGregor, Heather Akou, and Nicola Stylianou, eds., pp. 100-127. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Loughran, Kristyne S. 2017. "Voices on the Runway: African Prints and African Fashion Designers." In *African-Print Fashion Now! A Story of Taste, Globalization, and Style,* edited by Suzanne Gott, Kristyne S. Loughran, Betsy D. Quick, and Leslie W. Rabine, 182–97. Los Angeles: Fowler Museum at UCLA.

Mchunu, 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.

Ogunyankin, Grace Adenyi. 2016. "'These Girls' Fashion is Sick!' An African City and the Geography of Sartorial Worldliness." *Feminist Africa* 21: 37-51.

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.

Spring, Chris. 2005. "Not Really African? Kanga and Swahili Culture." In *East African Contours: Reviewing Creativity and Visual Culture,* Hassan Arero and Zachary Kingdon, eds., pp. 73-84. London: Horniman Museum.

Sylvanus, Nina. 2017. "Real/Fake: Brands, Labels, and China in West Africa." In *African-Print Fashion Now! A Story of Taste, Globalization, and Style,* Suzanne Gott, Kristyne Loughran, Betsy Quick, and Leslie Rabine, eds., pp. 107-113. Fowler Museum Textile Series 14. Los Angeles: Fowler Museum at UCLA.