COURSE DETAIL

ANTHROPOLOGY OF PARISIAN FASHION
Country France
Host Institution UC Center, Paris
Program(s) Food, History, and Culture in Paris
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Sociology Anthropology
UCEAP Course Number 121
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title ANTHROPOLOGY OF PARISIAN FASHION
UCEAP Transcript Title ANTH/PARISIAN FASHN
UCEAP Quarter Units 5.00
UCEAP Semester Units 3.30

Course Description

This course examines the ways in which Paris has, more or less successfully, upheld its position as the fashion capital of the world, through corporate strategies and government policies to bolster an industry, which faces issues related to environmental sustainability and labor ethics. Besides a critical understanding of the economics and politics of Parisian fashion, the class equips students with a thorough knowledge of the social significance of fashion which, in French 19th century author Balzac's words, "is an expression of society". How then, has French society shaped and been shaped by fashion? Through lectures, site visits and urban walks through the streets of the city, the students discover the creativity of Parisians, who have mobilized fashion as forms of political and aesthetic expression during some of the most important events of the city, including the 1789 French revolution, the industrial revolution, May 1968, and more recent youth culture and social movements. Students reflect upon historical and current regulations and norms around covering and uncovering our bodies with textile, and what they say about living up to or disregarding social identities and inequalities related to sexual and gender identities, religion, class and racialization. What are the societal consequences of shifting ideals of beauty and style? What does it mean to shop, thrift or mend clothes in Paris today? Whose labor matters and why? And how may one of the World's most polluting industries evolve to the better in the near future?

Language(s) of Instruction
English

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https://uceap.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/DocumentLibrary/IQAd3cxol-4JTbplxTeE7mN5Aa8S...

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

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