

COURSE DETAIL

AN 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**

AN ANTHROPOLOGY OF PARISIAN FASHION

UCEAP Transcript Title

PARISIAN FASHION

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

Host Institution Course Number

Host Institution Course Title

AN ANTHROPOLOGY OF PARISIAN FASHION

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

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