DEPARTMENT OF
ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION

Fall Term 2017
ARTH 301 / 3.0
The Artwork as Material Object:
Cloth and Clothing

INSTRUCTOR: TBA
TIME: TBA
LOCATION: TBA
OFFICE: TBA
TELEPHONE: TBA
EMAIL: TBA

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
A study of selected objects with a focus on materials and meanings.

Prerequisites: Level 3 or above or permission of the Department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
According to Jane Schneider, “Cloth and clothing constitute the widest imaginable category of material culture, covering a spatial domain that extends from the miles of textiles annually produced by hand or factory to the most intimate apparel of the human body, and a temporal domain whose earliest moments, lost to archaeology because of poor preservation, pre-date the neolithic” (2006). It is the ubiquitous nature of cloth which allows it to act as a site for a range of meanings – comfort and resistance, utility and beauty – meanings that are woven into textiles as they are made and used. Drawing upon approaches from visual and material culture studies, this course explores the production and consumption of fashion and textiles from the eighteenth century to the present. Case studies will include the Kashmiri shawl trade of the nineteenth century, indigenous weaving in the United States and Canada, the significance of textiles in the African diaspora, and the use of tartan in the work of Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available in the first class. The course will include lecture and discussion. Attendance and active participation at all class meetings is expected and will count toward the final grade. Assignments will include in-class tests/quizzes, short written assignments and presentations, and a research project.