



*Peacocks on Parade:
Male Fashion Icons from Louis XIV to RuPaul*

Course Syllabus
John Brott, Coordinator
Lifelong Learning Collaborative
Fall, 2022

Peacocks on Parade: Male Fashion Icons from Louis XIV to RuPaul
Fall 2022
Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
September 15 – November 17

Course Description

Here comes a dazzling parade of peacocks! Throughout history, gentlemen of exceptional vision and taste have impressed us with their bold sartorial flair. These legendary “fashion icons” have sparked admiration, emulation, and sometimes even outrage! Join us to learn more about their remarkable lives and explore how personal style, fashion, and cultural history are dynamically interrelated.

We’ll begin in 17th century France with the magnificent King Louis XIV, who revolutionized the fashion world of his day, and end with RuPaul, that statuesque drag queen superstar who has helped reshape our thinking about the modern male. Along the way, we’ll examine numerous other trendsetters, past and present – including Beau Brummell, King Edward VII, Oscar Wilde, the Duke of Windsor, Fred Astaire, Gary Cooper, Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra, Liberace, James Dean, Elvis Presley, Steve McQueen, Andy Warhol, David Bowie, Prince, and Andre Leon Talley!

Format

Class members will give presentations and lead discussions on fashion designers that they will select from a list prepared by the coordinator. Following our historical timeline, each week two participants will give a presentation and lead a discussion for the group, one participant in Session A and another in Session B. The coordinator welcomes the opportunity to meet with you before your presentation to discuss your topic and strategize on how to present it. See the attached ***Guidelines for Presentations*** for additional information.

The course will also include a slide show on *The Evolution of the Male Model* and a screening of the 2001 film *Zoolander*, a madcap spoof of the male fashion world.

Reading & Video Assignments

To complement the weekly presentations, the coordinator will assign reading material and YouTube videos for review before each class. In addition, some fellow classmates may ask you to read or view something prior to their presentations.

Coordinator

John Brott

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John Brott is a card-carrying fashion aficionado who earned his BA and MA degrees in art history from UCLA. He has also taken courses in fashion history at RISD, the Fashion Institute of Technology, and Parsons School of Design. In the past John has coordinated several other popular LLC courses on the history of fashion.

Weekly Schedule
Peacocks on Parade:
Male Fashion Icons from Louis XIV to RuPaul
Fall 2022

Week	Date	Session A	Session B
1	September 15	Welcome to the Course & <u>An Introduction to Our Fashion Icons</u> Presentation: John Brott	Louis XIV & <u>The Fashion Horizon Beyond</u> Presentation: John Brott
2	September 22	<u>Beau Brummell</u> Guest Lecturer: Bob Martin	<u>King Edward VII</u> Some Fashion! Video: "The Mistresses of Edward VII"
3	September 29	<u>Oscar Wilde</u> Presentation: Katy Gilchrist	<u>The Duke of Windsor</u> Presentation: Ellen Ober
4	October 6	<u>Fred Astaire</u> Presentation: Linda Guccione	<u>Gary Cooper</u> Presentation: Roberta Schwartz
5	October 13	<u>Cary Grant</u> Presentation: Roz Kurzer	<u>Frank Sinatra</u> Presentation: Celene Healy & Susan Remington
6	October 20	<u>James Dean</u> Video: "How to Dress Like James Dean"	<u>Elvis Presley</u> Presentation: Janice Golden
7	October 27	Strange Bedfellows: <u>Steve McQueen & Liberace</u> Presentation: John Brott	<u>Andy Warhol</u> Art Becomes Fashion! Video: "Brief History of Andy Warhol: Pop Art King"
8	November 3	<u>Special Session</u> Slide Show: The Evolution of the Male Model	<u>Special Session</u> Film: Zoolander
9	November 10	<u>David Bowie</u> Presentation: Chris Healy	<u>Prince</u> Presentation: Pat Moriarty
10	November 17	<u>Andre Leon Talley</u> Presentation: Elizabeth Maltby	RuPaul Presentation: John Brott Class Wrap-Up



Weekly Reading & Video Assignments
Peacocks on Parade:
Male Fashion Icons from Louis XIV to RuPaul

Week 1 – September 15

Session A
WELCOME TO THE COURSE &
AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR PEACOCKS ON PARADE

Session B
LOUIS XIV &
THE FASHION HORIZON BEYOND
Presentations: John Brott



Reading Assignment

***The King of Couture: How Louis XIV Invented Fashion as We Know It*, by Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, Vanity Fair, September 2015 (6 pages)**

When Louis XIV came to the throne in 1643, the fashion capital of the world wasn't Paris – but Louis set out to change all that and over the course of his long reign he succeeded brilliantly.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2015/09/the-king-of-couture/402952/>

Fashion at Versailles: “For Him,” Google Arts & Culture & the Palace of Versailles (21-page slideshow with brief text)

Louis XIV died in 1714. How had men's fashion evolved at Versailles, Louis' dazzling palace, by the 1780's, shortly before the French Revolution? This brief and artful slide show is very informative.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/fashion-at-versailles-%E2%80%9Cfor-him%E2%80%9D-palace-of-versailles/8OKS2Lm-GHocKg?hl=en>

***Baggy Trousers are Revolting: The Sans-Culottes of the French Revolution Transformed Peasant Dress into a Badge of Honour*, by Katy Werlin, Sage Journals, January 6, 2017**

“Les sans-culottes” (literally, “without breeches”) were working class citizens during the French Revolution who wore long pants, rather than knee-length breeches favored by aristocrats, to proclaim their opposition to the aristocracy and nobility.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0306422016685978>

***When Fashion Becomes a Form of Protest*, by Alexander Fury, The New York Times Style Magazine, August 2016 (5 pages)**

Les Incroyables, and their female counterparts Les Merveilleuses, were a proto-punk fashion phenomenon that surfaced in France after the Revolution of 1789. As author Fury explains, “... after the Terror and the execution of its architect, Maximilien Robespierre, a band of Parisian youths emerged. They had weird haircuts, spoke with funny voices, and roamed the streets getting into trouble. They walked as if they were hunchbacked, and wore fashion that distended, padded, and pulled the body out of proportion, with coats cropped under the chest in front and rears almost brushing the floor. They looked incredible. Or as the French christened them – Incroyable!”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/17/t-magazine/fashion/fashion-as-protest-french-incroyables.html>

Videos

***Louis XIV: Fashionable by Law*, Archaeosoup, 2013 (2 minutes)**

Louis XIV was so hellbent on making France the most stylish of nations that in 1668 he issued a royal decree stating that it was **illegal** for members of the court to be unfashionable!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-PWt69FNe8>

Turn to the Left with the Macaroni, Rogue's Gallery Uncovered, 2017 (3 minutes)

After Louis XIV eventually came The Macaroni ... look at what "the cool kids" of 1773 were wearing in Britain, influenced by what they saw in France & Italy on the Grand Tour!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDw16SYaq1g>

Fashion of Les Sans-Culottes, Ultimate Fashion History, 2017 (4 minutes)

Les Sans-Culottes used fashion to create a civilian uniform to easily identify one another in Revolutionary times!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pe3F3gicKHw>

Incroyables et Merveilleuses, Vertigo1871, 2011 (2 minutes)

A titillating peek, with clavichord accompaniment, at the outrageous style of the Incroyables & the Merveilleuses, young men & women who used exaggerated fashions to openly flout the social conventions of the day in celebration of Robespierre's fall & the end of The Reign of Terror!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bP1oojZfsfQ>



Week 2 – September 22
Session A
BEAU BRUMMELL
Guest Lecturer: Bob Martin

Reading Assignment

Beau Brummell: The Original Gentleman of Style, by Dr. Christopher Lee, Gentleman’s Gazette, 2018 (24 pages, mostly pictures with some text)

British socialite George Bryan “Beau” Brummell made an enormous impact on men’s fashion that is still felt today, 175 years after his death. In fact, a statue by Irene Sedjeka, fellow of the Royal British Society of Sculptors, has been erected in his honor on London’s posh Jermyn Street, the ultimate shopping venue for menswear in the city! Brummell promoted a completely new style of dress for men, later called “The Great Male Renunciation” because it renounced previous trends popularized by the French court—wigs, white hair, powder, perfume, elaborate silks, and knee breeches with socks. Instead, Brummell favored natural, unadorned hair, long trousers worn with boots, and coats without much ornamentation. These refined results were revolutionary & long-lasting, as this article amply illustrates.

<https://www.gentlemansgazette.com/beau-brummell-the-original/>

Beau Brummell Wasn’t a Hero of Modern Men’s Fashion. He Was a Villain. A Boring, Uptight Villain, by Alexandra Rowland, Esquire, March 20, 2019 (11 pages, mostly some great “doctored” photos with text)

Not all revolutionaries are beloved! With great humor, the author of this article asserts that Beau Brummell – the ultimate dandy of his day – “managed to wrench men’s fashion away from the bright, ornamented style of 40 or 50 years previous, and steer it into a conservative dreariness that is not unfamiliar to the modern eye.” But how do you really feel?

<https://www.esquire.com/style/mens-fashion/a26870204/beau-brummell-style-toxic-masculinity/>

Videos

Why Classic Menswear Got Boring: Understatement, Vintagebursche, 2021 (6 minutes)

An amusing take on Brummell, who pioneered the concept of being “conspicuously inconspicuous.” He favored understatement with attention to subtle details -- & his historical influence is still felt today.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuHpkjOYcuw>

Beau Brummell: Original Trailer, Вайнах Луза, 2013 (3 minutes)

Movie trailer for MGM’s lavish 1954 version of the life of Beau Brummell – hailed here as an “elegant scoundrel” and perhaps “the most controversial man of his day.” Starring Stewart Granger in the title role along with a twenty-two-year-old Elizabeth Taylor, Peter Ustinov, & Robert Morley. Classic Hollywood looks at a colorful fashion icon from the past!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LmOyEldHzNA>

Session B
KING EDWARD VII
Video Presentation

Reading Assignment



The Fashions of Edward VII, Bizarre Victoria, November 2017 (3 pages)

Edward VII was the eldest son of Queen Victoria. Her court was known to be stuffy & morose, in no small part due to the premature death of her beloved husband Albert, Prince Consort. In contrast, the court of Edward VII – before & after he became King in 1901 upon his mother’s death – was characterized by its glamor and style. Edward was extremely fond of fine dressing & was noted for his sarcastic remarks to others whom he considered to be improperly dressed in his presence, whatever the occasion.

<https://bizarrevictoria.wordpress.com/2017/11/24/the-fashions-of-edward-vii/>

The Edwardian Era: 1901-1914, Fine Tuxedos, 2022 (5 pages)

Long before he ascended the throne, Edward VII (then known as the Prince of Wales) was a fashion icon throughout the British Empire and abroad. Commanding attention and highly self-confident, he was emulated by aristocrats and socialites everywhere with his focus on increasingly stylish comfort in a very formal world. As French fashion historian Farid Chenoune has written, "In terms of dress, Edward VII was one of those pivotal figures so crucial to the history of men's fashion in the way they orient, regulate, and accelerate change when the world shifts from one era to another."

<https://www.finetuxedos.com/pages/the-edwardian-era-1901-1914-formal-wear-of-edward-vii>

Video

King Edward VII, The Mad Monarchist, 2011 (4 minutes)

A pictorial tribute to the life of King Edward VII, who gave his name to the Edwardian Era in England. He is shown here in historic photographs that reveals his style and charisma dressed in everything from the sporting Norfolk jacket, which he made famous, to the most elaborate royal regalia.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Alxv_U0pkYg



Week 3 – September 29
Session A
OSCAR WILDE
Presentation: Katy Gilchrist

Reading Assignment

Oscar Wilde & Victorian Fashion, by Amber Butchart, British Library (9 pages)

In this article Amber Butchart, fashion historian and Associate Lecturer at the London College of Fashion, tells us that, “Wilde became as notorious for his dress as for his wit and words,” Indeed he once said, “One should either be a work of art or wear a work of art.” Wilde’s wardrobe was characterized by an interest in historical styles, including knee britches, stockings, & “affected accessories from sunflowers to green carnations in his buttonhole.” Wilde was also an avid proponent of Victorian dress reform, championing the Aesthetic Dress movement that called for greater freedom and comfort in fashion in opposition to the tight-laced strictures of Victorian styles.

<https://www.britishlibrary.cn/en/articles/oscar-wilde-and-victorian-fashion/>

Video

Oscar Wilde & Victorian Dress Reform, The Ultimate Fashion History, 2019 (20 minutes)

Wilde’s flamboyant personal style – velvet, fur, silk trim, cloaks, hats, huge bows around his neck, smoking jackets with padded satin collars – reflected his bohemian calling as a poet and playwright rather than any signal (overt or covert) of his sexual orientation. But Wilde played a role in the development of female fashion as well via The Rational Dress Society and the Aesthetic movement & was in fact ahead of his time – our first “trend forecaster!”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6phasvWzPBw>



Session B
THE DUKE OF WINDSOR
Presentation: Ellen Ober
Reading Assignment

What the Duke of Windsor Can Teach You About Style, by J.A. Shapira, He Spoke Style, 2017 (12 pages with many large photographs)

The Duke of Windsor was a rebel – he gave up the throne of England to marry his true love -- & his personal dress style was just as rebellious. In fact, as freelance reporter J.A. Shapira tells us that, “The Duke of Windsor... broke just about every rule in men’s fashion” -- & he did so with such panache that he was regarded as one of the best-dressed men of his day. Many wonderful photos illustrate the Duke’s stylish approach to dressing.

<https://hespokestyle.com/duke-of-windsor-style/>

How the Duke of Windsor Became a Style Icon, Gentlemen’s Journal (9 pages with many photographs)

As this article notes, “The Duke of Windsor was world renowned for was his impeccable sense of style, not only by his choice in clothes, but how he matched them and how he wore them with pride.” Moreover, the Duke was extremely modern for his time – his clothes were made for comfort, which he himself described as “dress soft.”

<https://www.thegentlemansjournal.com/style-icon-the-duke-of-windsor/>

Video

The Duke of Windsor: Sartorial Style Icon for Generations of Chaps, The Chap’s Guide, 2020 (13 minutes)

A lifelong style icon, the Duke of Windsor flaunted the sartorial conventions expected of a man of his status with a distinctive approach to dressing all his own. He freed men to dress in a new way – you CAN break the rules!

<https://youtu.be/0iSEMr4gvXo>

Week 4 – October 6
Session A
FRED ASTAIRE
Presentation: Linda Guccione



Reading Assignment

The Enduring Style of Fred Astaire, by Elyssa Goodman, CR Fashion Gazette, May 2019 (7 pages with some wonderful large photos)

Fred Astaire – whom ballet great George Balanchine called “the greatest dancer in the world” – made Hollywood history in films paired with acting stars like Joan Crawford, Rita Hayworth, Audrey Hepburn, Cyd Charisse &, of course, Ginger Rogers. From top hat & tails to elegant sweaters & slacks, Astaire always looked impeccable & men emulated him with relish. Fred Astaire is still considered one of the best-dressed American actors ever!

<https://crfashionbook.com/mens-a27423679-the-enduring-style-of-fred-astaire/>

Fred Astaire, Style Icon, Nick Louras, September 2018 (5 pages)

Some incisive tips & opinions from Astaire, lifted from an interview with Gentleman’s Quarterly in 1957. A sartorial king indeed!

<https://nicklouras.com/2018/09/10/fred-astaire-style-icon/>

Videos

Fred Astaire Style, My Lovely Dead Friends, 2016 (3 minutes)

This photo montage from Astaire’s films makes it clear what an ever-lasting stylish dude he was! Wonderful dancing bits too!

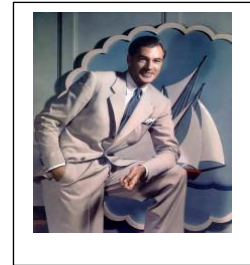
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zulMNFvht4>

How to Dress Like Fred Astaire – Style Inspiration from a Hollywood Icon, Gentleman’s Gazette, 2019 (18 minutes)

Actor, singer, & -- above all – dancer extraordinaire, Astaire was a multi-talented film star who captured America’s heart with his effortless grace. As narrator Preston Schlueter says in this video, “Essentially, Astaire’s sartorial genius came from his ability to look simultaneously formal and casual, neat and yet pleasingly rumpled.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGneYHXB2zI>

Session B
GARY COOPER
Presentation: Roberta Schwartz



Reading Assignment

Gary Cooper Was the Ultimate 1930’s Style Icon, by Faye Fearon, GQ, May 2020 (Text & great photos)

Cooper’s attention to tailoring & elegant details made him a style icon from the 1930’s onward. Take a look at some of his “style rules” that earned him his sartorial reputation!

<https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/fashion/article/gary-cooper-style>

The Unflappable Nonchalance of Gary Cooper, by Sonya Glyn Nicholson, Parisian Gentleman, October 2013 (Text & more great photos)

“Coop” was known for his style as much as for his acting. As Bruce Boyer states in his book Gary Cooper: Enduring Style, “Cooper devised and perfected his own debonair style that combined a perfectly tailored European wardrobe with al-American casual sportswear to produce the first, and still finest example of elegant, international masculine style rooted in an American ideal of the Everyman as hero. From the most casual sports clothing to the most formal white tie & tails, Cooper carried himself with uncontrived conviction.” What higher praise?

<https://www.parisiangentleman.com/blog/the-unflappable-nonchalance-of-gary-cooper>

Videos

Young Gary Cooper, Rolfe 2009, 2017 (4 minutes)

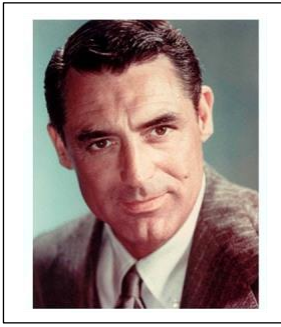
With musical accompaniment by Taco singing “Puttin’ on the Ritz” – note that Gary Cooper is specifically named in these lyrics! – this video demonstrates how Cooper became such a fashion icon. Super handsome, incredibly expressive, & style to burn – he had it all!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUBsj2MepTo>

TCM Tribute to Gary Cooper, 24fpsfan, 2013 (5 minutes)

A loving tribute to Gary Cooper’s life & career narrated by his daughter Maria Cooper Janis. Cooper was nominated for the Oscar 5 times & won twice – plus an Academy Honorary Award. In all his films, his style comes shining through!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1javFsDH20>



Week 5: October 13
Session A
CARY GRANT
Presentation: Roz Kurzer

Reading Assignment

Here's the Real Secret to Cary Grant's Style, by J.A. Shapira, He Spoke Style August 10, 2017 (11 pages with numerous large photographs)

Sophisticated Cary Grant was a British transplant to the USA & felt that well-dressed Americans outclassed all other men on the international scene. His own style philosophy? Grant once said, "Simplicity, to me, has always been the essence of good taste." True to his words, he avoided fashion extremes – neither too conservative or too far-out -- & his wardrobe was peppered with garments from department stores and discount racks as well as custom-made.

<https://hespokestyle.com/cary-grant-style-icon>

Videos

Cary Grant is a Sharp Dressed Man, Kelly, 2012 (4 minutes)

A great pictorial look at Cary Grant's style to the musical accompaniment of ZZ Top singing "Sharp Dressed Man."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJXnqPqh0uY>

How to Dress Like Cary Grant, Gentleman's Gazette, 2019 (14 minutes)

Host Preston Schlueter tells us that this video covers "...the style of Hollywood icon Cary Grant, his approach to dressing, and which lessons from his style you can adopt and adapt to your wardrobe."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5ajWhe-NWQ>

Session B
FRANK SINATRA
Presentation: Celene Healy &
Susan Remington



Reading Assignment

Eight times Frank Sinatra Mastered Proper Masculine Elegance, by Faye Fearon, GQ, December 2019 (Text & numerous photos)

The article highlights eight of the "greatest style moves" by Frank Sinatra – AKA "Ol' Blue Eyes" – who was known throughout his career for his classic sartorial elegance.

<https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/fashion/article/frank-sinatra-style>

Frank Sinatra – Gentleman of Style, by J.A. Shapira, Gentleman's Gazette, 2014 (Great text & photos)

Frank Sinatra was a scrappy street kid from Hoboken, New Jersey, who became an entertainment legend & a style icon. His talent, his personal philosophy, & his taste in clothes all added up to one of a kind!

<https://www.gentlemansgazette.com/frank-sinatra-style-gentleman/>

Videos

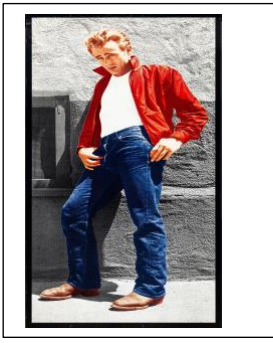
Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, & Dean Martin Sing "Style," Warner Archive, 2017 (5 minutes)

A clip from 1964's "Robin & the Seven Hoods" illustrates – in spades! – the style of Sinatra & his pals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjjzEYLUIrM>

Remembering Frank Sinatra, NewsbugAZ, 2012 (6 minutes)

A touching tribute to Sinatra by CBS News upon his death in 1998 – "he did it with a style that intimated he'd been around -- & truth be told, he had." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cd3446jugo>



Week 6 – October 20
Session A
JAMES DEAN
Video Presentation

Reading Assignment

Gentleman of Style: James Dean, by Preston Schlueter, Gentleman’s Gazette, 2018 (Text & photographic tribute)

This article is an unparalleled photographic tribute to the career and style of James Dean, who in just 3 films before his untimely death in 1955 at the age of 24 – *East of Eden* *Rebel Without a Cause*, & *Giant* – became a Hollywood legend and an enduring fashion icon.

<https://www.gentlemansgazette.com/gentleman-style-james-dean/>

Videos

How James Dean Changed Men’s Style, Demetrios Levi, 2019 (4 minutes)

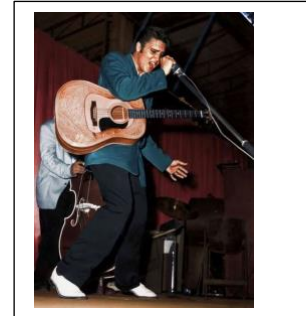
Opening with a raw but comedic imitation of James Dean’s famous line, “You’re tearing me apart!” the narrator of this video reminds us that Dean was one of the main influencers who brought about & popularized casual attire — “the dude exuded devil-may-care attitude & his clothes reflected it.”

<https://youtu.be/zFoxHBFGJqw>

James Dean: Hairstyle & Clothing, Robin James, 2015 (6 minutes)

YouTube style vlogger Robin James demonstrates how to bring off Dean’s famous “pomp” hairstyle and puts together 3 outfits to channel Dean’s iconic style

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cccvMcFu4w>



Session B
ELVIS PRESLEY
Presentation: Janice Golden

Reading Assignment

Elvis Presley Still a Style Icon, by Chris Manty, Antique Trader, January 8, 2021 (Text & many great color photographs)

We still remember Elvis no matter what he wore – traditional 50’s clothing with a twist & a pompadour “ducktail” haircut, head-to-toe gold lame, or heavily sequined white jumpsuits with open shirt & flared trousers. President Richard Nixon once said to Elvis, “You dress kinda strange,” to which Elvis replied, “Well, Mr. President, you got your show & I got mine,”

<https://www.antiquetrader.com/collectibles/elvis-presley-still-a-style-icon>

Videos

Elvis Presley: The King of Fashion, by Josh Sims, Fashion Beans (14 pages, mostly photos)

Throughout his wildly successful career Elvis Presley -- “The King” – had a distinctive style that never disappointed fans! His sense of fashion through the years is examined here, to the tune of Elvis himself signing “Wearin’ That Loved on Look.”

<https://www.fashionbeans.com/article/elvis-presley-fashion/>

Elvis Presley’s Outfits, 7travel, 2018 (6 minutes)

The Morning Show from Australian TV chronicles Elvis’s fashion evolution – 50’s hipster, black leather, & especially bedazzled jumpsuits worn in his legendary Las Vegas shows!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCGJRWX29Sc>



Week 7 – October 27

Session A

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS: STEVE McQUEEN & LIBERACE

Presentation: John Brott

Reading Assignment

Steve McQueen: Gentleman of Style, by Kyle Thibodeaux, Gentleman's Gazette, 2017 (Text & great photos)

From a troubled childhood & youth, McQueen emerged as a cinematic superstar in the 60's & 70's known as "The King of Cool." As author Kyle Thibodeaux states, McQueen became "an icon of that era for both his talent & his style." Contains a bonus video "How to Dress Like Steve McQueen," narrated by Thibodeaux, if you care to watch.

<https://www.gentlemansgazette.com/gentleman-of-style-steve-mcqueen/>

Steve McQueen's 10 Ingredients for a Killer Wardrobe, by Faye Fearon GQ, March 24, 2020 (Text & more great photos)

This article is a tribute to Steve McQueen written on what would have been his 90th birthday. It tells us that the secret to McQueen's style was that he wore his clothes – they never wore him -- & "it was this sense of innate confidence that raised him from well-dressed to the coolest man on the planet."

<https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/fashion/article/steve-mcqueen-style>

Why Liberace's Costumes Mattered, by Deirdre Clemente & Aisling O'Connor, The Atlantic, June 6, 2013 (5 pages)

Known as "Mr. Showmanship," Liberace never publicly acknowledged that he was gay, but the authors of this article note that fashion allowed him "to remain closeted but embrace his identity—and help soften public aversion to homosexuality." His extravagant costumes in the 2013 TV film *Behind the Candelabra*, with Michael Douglas as Liberace, reflect this – "Anyone with a foot in modern culture would know what his appearance signaled, but those who didn't want to acknowledge that a man in sequined lederhosen was gay could interpret his costume as mere showmanship—which, of course, it was." Here's to being fabulous, no matter what!

<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2013/06/why-liberaces-costumes-mattered/276568/>

Liberace & His Costume Legacy, by Cheryl Wischhover, Fashionista, April 10, 2014 (3 pages)

As the authors point out, before there was Cher, Madonna, or Lady Gaga – there was Liberace! He learned to believe in himself & he gloried in his over-the-top costumes. The public loved it!

<https://fashionista.com/2013/04/liberace-costumes-new-book>

Videos

Fashion File: Steve McQueen, Style Icon, o29sms, 2015 (5 minutes)

In 1962 McQueen was selected as the first man ever to grace the cover of *Harper's Bazaar*, establishing him as a true leader of style (original copies now sell on eBay in the \$800 range!). Dressed up or dressed down, he always looked great!

<https://youtu.be/5NNWxdtbUA0>

Liberace's Wardrobe from the Liberace Show, Lib Thack, 2013 (5 minutes)

"Ladies & Gentlemen – Liberace!" With this resounding introduction, we are treated to a delightful look at some of Liberace's dazzling costumes from his 1969 TV series filmed in London. As he confesses to the audience, "You know, sometimes I look at all this stuff & I can hardly believe it myself!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyKHv0N0500>

Session B
ANDY WARHOL
Video Presentation



Reading Assignment

Andy Warhol: Style Icon, by Aobh O’Brien-Moody, The Rake, August 2018 (5 pages)

Warhol’s darkly achromatic personal style – leather jacket, sunglasses everywhere, silver wig -- was a far cry from the ultra-colorful world of his wildly popular art & the flamboyant celebrities he idolized.

<https://therake.com/stories/icons/style-heroes-andy-warhol/>

Andy Warhol & Fashion: A Perfect Harmony, Farfetch, December 21, 2016 (4 pages)

This article makes an important point about Andy Warhol, noting that he “didn’t one day become part of the fashion scene after he rose to fame as an artist in the Sixties; it would be more accurate to say that he never left it, and he still hasn’t to this day. Style icon Andy Warhol started out as a shy illustrator for a magazine, but now he is known as a core part of the fashion zeitgeist that he so loved.”

<https://www.farfetch.com/style-guide/trends-subcultures/andy-warhol-fashion-a-perfect-harmony/>

Andy Warhol’s Influence on Fashion, by Harriet Fisher, Barneby’s Magazine, March 14, 2016 (8 pages with large photos)

Warhol’s influence on fashion has been vivid & long-lasting. Brilliant examples include Jean-Charles de Castelbajac’s “Soup Can Dress,” Gianni Versace’s stunning beaded gown featuring the faces of Marilyn Monroe and James Dean a la Warhol, or Diane von Furstenberg’s “Pop Wrap” collection. To say nothing of the impact that Warhol has had on Moschino’s youthful genius designer Jeremy Scott!

<https://www.barnebys.com/blog/the-fashion-influence-of-andy-warhol>

Videos

Andy Warhol in 8 Minutes: Pop Art Legend or Fashion Guru? Curious Muse, 2020 (8 minutes)

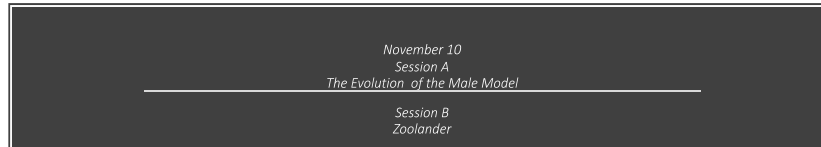
No doubt about it, Andy Warhol is as instantly recognizable as his brightly colored screenprints. Pop art legend or fashion guru? Both!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_FGcnR6EUY

Warhol: Fashion Portraits with Jackie Edwards, McNay Art Museum, 2020 (2 minutes)

Jackie Edwards, Assistant Curator at the McNay Art Museum in Dallas, notes that fashion was included as an integral component in the retrospective exhibit on Andy Warhol’s work held there in 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4CoNftsatE>



Week 8 – November 3
Session A: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MALE MODEL
 (a brief slide show)
Session B: ZOO LANDER
 (2001 film, a madcap spoof of the male fashion industry)

Reading Assignment

History of the Male Supermodel, by Tim Blanks, VMan, August 27, 2020

Male models may never have enjoyed the same level of fame as their cherished female counterparts, but they've come a long way in the public's awareness -- & the concept of the male supermodel is here to stay.

<https://yman.com/article/history-of-the-male-supermodel-2/>

Buff Hunks Out, Skinny Dudes In, The Daily Mail, September 23, 2016

Fashion trends are ever-changing -- & so is the "latest look" in modelling. As Heidi Klum says on Project Runway, "One day you're in & the next day you're out!"

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3804669/Buff-hunks-skinny-dudes-fashion-industry-s-idea-perfect-male-model-went-muscular-manly-slim-androgynous.html>

The Male Model: How Did We Get to Zoolander? by Katya Foreman, BBC Culture, February 12, 2016 (6 pages)

Has the arrogant, narcissistic male supermodel -- personified by Derek Zoolander in the 2001 film & its 2016 sequel -- been replaced by a "kinder, gentler" version?

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20160212-the-male-model-how-did-we-get-to-zoolander>

The State of Today's Male Model, The Fashionisto, July 23, 2017 (28 pages, mostly large photographs)

The impact of social media and the digital world has been enormous on the evolution of male modeling as millennials & Gen Z become prime consumers & social influencers abound. What's the status of the male modeling universe today? And what does the future look like?

<https://www.thefashionisto.com/2017-male-models/>

Videos

100 Years of Fashion: Men, Glam Inc., July 9, 2015 (3 minutes)

Using a single model, this brief video provides an entertaining & fast-paced look at menswear fashions over the past 100 years! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaSkMWVIFUU>

Zoolander – Trailer, Paramount Movies, 2012 (2 minutes)

This is a trailer for the 2001 film Zoolander, a "wild & crazy" take on male supermodels in the world of fashion. Get ready for lots of laughs as the outrageous story unfolds! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtOq0T3ExLs>

Week 9 – November 10
Session A
DAVID BOWIE
Presentation: Chris Healy



Reading Assignment

David Bowie's Style Legacy, by Sheryl Garratt, The Guardian, January 2016 (7 pages)
Ziggy Stardust, Aladdin Sane, The Thin White Duke -- Bowie's distinctive outfits have influenced designers from Jean Paul Gaultier to Hedi Slimane.
<https://www.theguardian.com/music/2016/jan/11/david-bowie-style-icon-fashion-legacy-aladdin-sane>

Videos

David Bowie's "Fashion" – Official Video, David Bowie Channel, 2018 (3 minutes)
Bowie's song "Fashion" was a cut from his 1980 album "Scary Monsters." It has been suggested that Bowie – with undeniable charisma – is satirizing the superficial fashionistas common on the dance floors of the time.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-z6u5hFgPk>

David Bowie's Multiple Personalities and Personas, 2018 (5 minutes)
Bowie's unique personas, one-of-a kind-costumes, and groundbreaking performances defied gender norms and set a new standard for artists everywhere.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOmbGTHZnxU&feature=youtu.be>

David Bowie's 8 Most Gender-Bending Fashion Moments, PopSugar Fashion, 2016 (2 minutes)
Androgynous and controversial, Bowie's outfits were revolutionary & established him as a fashion icon as well as a rock legend.
<https://youtu.be/AcFyBcZwSUU>

Session B
PRINCE
Presentation: Pat Moriarty



Reading Assignment

Prince: Fashion Icon, by Toni Deloach, Unpublished Magazine, November 23, 2020 (3 pages plus some excellent photos of his most iconic looks)
Acclaimed musician Prince Rogers Nelson embraced a flamboyant style all his own that included high heels, lace gloves, sequins, tassels & "booty-baring" pants. In so doing, the author notes that he ignited "the conversation about gender that we are still having today."
<https://www.unpublishedzine.com/fashion-beauty/prince-fashion-icon>

The Honest Truth: How Pop Icon Prince Rewrote the Fashion Rule Book, by Ross Crae, The Sunday Post, July 28, 2021 (5 pages)
This is an interview with budding author Casci Ritchie about Prince's fashion legacy. She praises Prince's gender-bending fashion choices that revolutionized our thinking about masculinity & notes that Prince "empowered a lot of people to rewrite their own fashion rules and encouraged a self-expression without boundaries."
<https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/prince-fashion/>

Videos

Prince Pushes the Boundaries of Masculinity, Fuse, April 2018 (4 minutes)

There's wide agreement that Prince was a fashion groundbreaker, especially for an African American male at that time. As Benhameen, international DJ, says of Prince in this video, "As far as opening up yourself for sexuality, he was the king -- & queen -- of that."

<https://youtu.be/6xDCKdHSCzw>

Prince's Fashion Evolution 1979-1989, Prince's Friend, November 2017 (4 minutes)

Check out a decade of Prince's stylish duds -- they cut quite a swath through the entertainment industry! Beauty is in the eye of the beholder -- & always changing!

<https://youtu.be/p70XBKdUGzQ>

Prince's Fashion Evolution 1990-2000, Prince's Friend, November 2017 (4 minutes)

Another decade! It has been said that actions speak louder than words -- & Prince's style was a statement by any account!

<https://youtu.be/x2eGqwbJ980>

Week 10 – November 17
Session A
ANDRE LEON TALLEY
Presentation: Elizabeth Maltby



Reading Assignment

André Leon Talley, Fashion’s Ultimate Insider, was also a Complicated Visionary, by Elizabeth Wellington, The Philadelphia Inquirer, January 21, 2022 (6 pages)

The inimitable Talley stood six foot six, held a Master’s degree in French from Brown University, & possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of fashion. “As American Vogue’s creative director, and later its editor-at-large,” the author states, “Talley was the highest-ranking Black man in the industry”

<https://www.inquirer.com/columnists/andre-leon-talley-fashion-vogue-20220121.html>

Remembering André Leon Talley, a Fashion Oracle and an Entirely Original Man, by Hamish Bowles, Vogue, January 19, 2022 (5 pages)

Hamish Bowles, himself a fashion legend as the long-time European editor-at-large for the American edition of Vogue, writes in this loving tribute to Talley, who died of a heart attack in 2022, “...the fashion world lost an entirely original and compelling man, someone who applauded its history, celebrated its present, and shaped its future.”

<https://www.vogue.com/article/remembering-andre-leon-talley-fashion-oracle>

Videos

The Gospel According to Andre, Magnolia Pictures & Magnet Releasing, April 2018 (2 minutes)

Official trailer for a biopic honoring fashion legend Andre Leon Talley. His sobriquets are many – “African prince” & “black superhero” among them. As he himself states with authority, “You can be an aristocrat without being born into an aristocratic family.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzZkVGCY5rY>

Remembering André Leon Talley and His Unique Contributions to Fashion, PBS News Hour, January 19, 2022 (4 minutes)

A PBS tribute to the legendary Andre Leon Talley upon his death. Black, gay, & exceedingly tall, he was mocked early on as “Queen Kong” -- but he persevered to create a fabulous career that earned him enduring place in fashion history’s pantheon.

<https://youtu.be/KtGxAIWIq0I>



Session B
RuPAUL
Presentation: John Brott

Reading Assignment

Why RuPaul Was a Cultural Icon Long Before Drag Race, by Jake Hall, Dazed, 2016 (7 pages including text, photos, & some bonus videos if you care to watch)

The RuPaul show debuted on VHS in 1996 & ran for 100 episodes. As author Jake Hall notes, “It’s worth remembering that, despite his mainstream appeal, RuPaul is famous for marketing an art form whose intentions are to ‘perform’ gender to highlight the instability of both masculinity and femininity – hardly ‘mainstream’ in any sense.” You gotta love Ru, no matter!

<https://www.dazeddigital.com/artsandculture/article/33452/1/why-rupaul-was-a-cultural-icon-long-before-drag-race>

RuPaul: Drag is a Big F-You to Male Dominated Culture, by Decca Aitkenhed, The Guardian, 2018 (Text & some great photos)

The author calls RuPaul's Drag Race "the most radical show on TV." After 14 seasons, it's still going strong. RuPaul himself has summarized it eloquently, "For people to do drag and make it their profession in a male-dominated culture, they have to go through so much emotional tug-of-war, because society says, 'You're not supposed to do that.' So, the strength and humanity it takes to maintain yourself and your dreams create many different layers of consciousness. That's where the humanity comes from."

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2018/mar/03/rupaul-drag-race-big-f-you-to-male-dominated-culture>

Videos

It Got Better Featuring RuPaul, Istudiopresents, 2015 (8 minutes)

RuPaul discusses his early struggles and cites numerous influences – including Flip Wilson as Geraldine, Diana Ross, Sylvester, and the radical drag queen group the Cockettes. He states, with great humility, that while drag is merely a costume, his drag has tended to confuse people "...because I look so goddam good!" 😊

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5zGOt6EOow>

Lady Gaga Performing "Fashion" with RuPaul, Haus of Marmo, 2013 (3 minutes)

The incomparable Lady Gaga & fabulous drag queen RuPaul perform "Fashion" – what more is there to say?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GsFIL90Mg0>



Guidelines for Presentations
Peacocks on Parade: Male Fashion Icons from Louis XIV to RuPaul
Fall 2022

FORMAT

Following our historical timeline, **each week two participants will give a presentation and lead a discussion for the group, one participant in Session A and the other in Session B (except for certain weeks/sessions when special presentations are planned, which will be noted in the course schedule).**

A. Participants will select the topic of their presentations in advance on a first-come, first-served basis from a list of history’s most noteworthy male fashion icons prepared by the coordinator. It is important that everyone sign up to present so that our schedule is filled for the semester.

B. There are many different formats you may use for your presentation, including Power Point, Google Slides, videos, film clips, flip charts, and handouts. But no matter what format you use, remember that fashion is a visual medium **so be sure to include plenty of pictures and visual aids.** If you have garments or accessories that are relevant to your topic, bring them along to show to the class! Want to dress up like your icon? Do it!

C. To complement the weekly presentations, the coordinator will assign reading material and videos of reasonable length that are to be reviewed in advance of each class. When you present, you may also wish to suggest an article, video, or some discussion questions to the class ahead of time. If so, you can send out this information yourself, or you can send it to the coordinator and he will forward it to the class. Please try to get this information to your classmates as early as possible (e.g., at least one week ahead).

D. Ideally your presentation should be approximately 30 minutes long with an additional 15 minutes for a discussion led by you with assistance from the coordinator.

CONTENT

The fashion icons we will study in this course are not just “cardboard cutouts” or “paper dolls” wearing stylish clothes, but actual human beings who have lived (or continue to live) meaningful lives. They have inspired us throughout history with groundbreaking fashion choices, creating a lasting impact for generations to come.

Accordingly, you should focus on at least two key factors in your presentations:

A. A biographical study of your fashion icon: Since the subject of our course is a history of fashion icons, place your analysis of their lives in a historical context. Consider such questions as: When and where were they born? Are they still living? What were the key events of their lives and how did these events shape them? Who were the most significant people in their lives in terms of relationships and influence? What did they accomplish in their lives and for what are they best known or remembered in terms of impact on their times?

B. How and why did our icons become icons? Our fashion icons come from many walks of life – including royalty, high society, the literary world, fashion journalism, art, cinema, music, and entertainment. Considering their roles in society and their life experiences, how did they become known for their fashion choices? Why did they capture the public’s imagination? Did their style remain the same or evolve? And what was the scope of their influence on the fashion of their times and subsequently? Answering questions like this will demonstrate one of the key precepts of our course: How personal style, fashion, culture, and history are dynamically interrelated.

RESEARCH

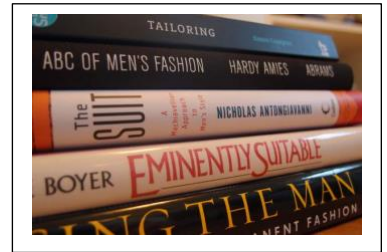
A few suggestions for conducting research on your fashion icon:

- A. **The Internet has a wealth of information** on the lives and fashion impact of our icons. Just enter a search request – for example, “Fred Astaire” or “Fred Astaire fashion” and you may be surprised and delighted at what comes up for your review (e.g., articles, videos, film clips, etc.)!
- B. **Books and magazines are another great source of information** (from the local library -- or try Amazon, E-Bay, etc. if you care to purchase at nominal cost).
- C. **The coordinator will provide a selected bibliography** useful for preparing presentations or for optional further study. Some of these books are owned by the coordinator and he will be happy to loan them to class participants.
- D. **Prior discussion of presentation with coordinator:** The coordinator welcomes the opportunity to meet with you before your presentation to discuss your topic and strategize on how to present it. Meetings can be scheduled in person or by phone or email.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- A. **We will be studying a group of fashion icons from the past 300 years who are a dazzling bunch** – so your audience will be geared up in advance to learn more about these remarkable individuals. **Relax and enjoy putting your presentation together for them!**
- B. **Get organized!** Your fellow classmates will get the most from your presentation if it is presented systematically. Make an outline – what do you want to say and when do you want to say it? For example, you could start with an introduction that grabs their attention, continue with an illustrated discussion of your icon’s life and fashion impact step-by-step, and end your remarks with a pithy conclusion that stimulates them to learn even more.
- C. **Please do not read your entire presentation.** It is fine to work from notes but be sufficiently familiar with your material that you can speak to your classmates naturally. Eye contact is important too!
- D. **Rehearse your presentation in advance.** Make sure you can move through all your content easily within the allotted time. You might want to get feedback by presenting to a fellow classmate, friend, or family member. Listen to their suggestions and revise your remarks to improve your impact on the listener.
- E. **Check and recheck the technology you are using as part of your presentation.** It’s important to verify the compatibility in the week before your presentation. The software currently in use in LLC classrooms works best with Power Point & Google Slides but it is **HIGHLY** recommended that you still bring your USB key/jump drive to the coordinator and test it with the equipment in the course room in advance (this will just take a few minutes). **Please note: The classroom software will NOT accommodate Keynote, so please DON’T use that for your presentation unless you know how to convert it on your personal computer to Power Point or Google slides before you bring it to class.**
- D. **For additional excellent suggestions** please consult LLC’s Collaborative Learning Guidelines, especially pages 16-24. The link on LLC’s website is: <https://www.lifelonglearningcollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines.pdf>

Selected Bibliography for Further Reading
A small selection of personal favorites ...



Week 1

Session A: Introduction

Session B: Louis XIV & the Fashion Horizon Beyond

The Sun King, by Nancy Mitford, Harper & Row, 1966

King of the World: The Life of Louis XIV, by Philip Mansel, University of Chicago Press, 2020

The Essence of Style: How the French Invented High Fashion, Fine Food, Chic Cafes, Style, Sophistication, and Glamour, by Joan De Jean, Free Press, 2005

Fashion Victims: Dress at the Court of Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette, by Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, Yale University Press, 2015

Fashion & Versailles, by Laurence Benaim, Flammarion, 2018

Week 2

Session A: Beau Brummell

Beau Brummell: The Ultimate Man of Style, by Ian Kelly, Free Press, 2006

Session B: King Edward VII

The Heir Apparent: A Life of Edward VII, The Playboy Prince, by Jane Ridley, 2013

Week 3

Session A: Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde, by Richard Ellmann, Vintage Books, 1988

Session B: The Duke of Windsor

King Edward VIII: The Definitive Portrait of the Duke of Windsor, by Phillip Ziegler, Ballantine Books, 1992

Week 4

Session A: Fred Astaire

Steps in Time: An Autobiography, by Fred Astaire with foreword by Ginger Rogers, Harper & Brothers, 1959

Puttin' on the Ritz: Fred Astaire & the Fine Art of Panache, by Peter J. Levinson, 2009

Session B: Gary Cooper

Gary Cooper: American Hero, by Jeffrey Meyers, William Morrow & Company, Inc., 1998

Gary Cooper: Enduring Style, by Maria Cooper Janis & G. Bruce Boyer with foreword by Ralph Lauren, PowerHouse Books, 2011

Week 5

Session A: Cary Grant

Cary Grant: A Biography, by Marc Eliot, Harmony, 2004

Cary Grant: A Brilliant Disguise, by Scott Eyman, Simon & Schuster, 2020

Session B: Frank Sinatra

Frank: The Voice, by James Kaplan, Anchor, 2011

Week 6

Session A: James Dean

James Dean: Little Boy Lost, by Joe Hyams, Warner Books, Inc., 1992

James Dean: The Mutant King, by David Dalton, A Cappella Books, 2001

Session B: Elvis Presley

Being Elvis: A Lonely Life, by Ray Connolly, Liveright, 2017

Elvis Style: From Zoot Suits to Jumpsuits, by Zoey Goto, Redshank Books, 2016

Week 7

Session A: Special Presentation

Strange Bedfellows: Steve McQueen & Liberace

Steve McQueen: The Life & Legend of a Hollywood Icon, by Marshall Terrill, Triumph Books, 2010

Steve McQueen: A Biography, by Marc Eliot, Crown Archetype, 2011

Steve McQueen: In His Own Words, by Marshall Terrill, Dalton Watson Fine Books, 2020

Liberace Extravaganza, by Connie Furr Soloman & Jan Jewett, Harper Design, 2013

Session B: Andy Warhol

Loner at the Ball: The Life of Andy Warhol, by Fred Lawrence Guiles, Bantam Press, 1989

Andy Warhol Fashion, by Simon Doonan with illustrations by Andy Warhol, Chronicle Books, 2004

Week 8

Session A: David Bowie

David Bowie Style, by Danny Lewis, Bloomsbury USA, 2012

David Bowie: A Life, by Dylan Jones, Crown Archetype, 2017

Sessions B: Prince

Prince: A Private View, by Afshin Shahidi with Foreword by Beyonce Knowles-Carter, St. Martin's Press, 2017

The Beautiful Ones, by Prince, One World, 2019

Week 9

Session A: The Evolution of the Male Model (Slide Show)

Session B: Zoolander (Film)

Dressing the Man: Mastering the Art of Permanent Fashion, by Alan Flusser, Harper Collins, 2002

Sex, Love, and Fashion: A Memoir of a Male Model, by Bruce Hulse, Harmony, 2008

The Culture of Male Beauty in Britain: From the First Photographs to David Beckham, by Paul R. Deslandes, University of Chicago Press, 2021

Week 10

Session A: Andre Leon Talley

A.L.T.: A Memoir, by Andre Leon Talley, Villard, 2003

The Chiffon Trenches: A Memoir, by Andre Leon Talley, Ballantine Books, 2020

Session B: RuPaul

Workin' It!, by RuPaul, Harper Collins, 2010

GuRu, by RuPaul with foreword by Jane Fonda, Harper Collins, 2018

Please Note: Many of these books are owned by the Coordinator & are available for loan to class participants to assist with presentations or for further study.