



*A History of Fabulous Fashion Designers:
From Charles Frederick Worth to Alexander McQueen*

Course Syllabus
Kip Brott, Coordinator
Lifelong Learning Collaborative
Spring, 2022

*A History of Fabulous Fashion Designers:
From Charles Frederick Worth to Alexander McQueen
Spring 2022
Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM
March 23 – May 25, 2022*

Course Description

Here comes a breathtaking cavalcade -- those “fabulous fashion designers” who have revolutionized fashion trends throughout history with their exceptional vision and style! Join us as we learn more about their remarkable accomplishments and explore how personal taste, design genius, and cultural history are dynamically interrelated.

We will begin our studies in 19th century France with Charles Frederick Worth, who collaborated with the dazzling Empress Eugenie to give birth to *haute couture*, and end with Alexander McQueen, unforgettable *enfant terrible* of our ultramodern age. Along the way we will examine an extraordinary array of history’s leading fashion designers over the past 150 years -- including Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel, Cristobal Balenciaga, Elsa Schiaparelli, Christian Dior, Pierre Balmain, Pierre Cardin, Hubert de Givenchy, Yves Saint Laurent, Halston, Vivienne Westwood, Gianni Versace, Jean Paul Gaultier, and John Galliano!

Course Format

Class members will be required to 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 documentary film about the groundbreaking *Battle at Versailles Fashion Show* in 1973 and a special session featuring *A Tribute to Designers of Color*.

Reading & Video Assignments

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

Coordinator

Kip Brott

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Kip Brott, a lifelong fashion enthusiast, 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. Kip previously coordinated a popular LLC course on the history of fashion icons.

Weekly Schedule of Presentations
A History of Fabulous Fashion Designers:
From Charles Frederick Worth to Alexander McQueen
Spring 2022

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Session A</i>	<i>Session B</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>March 23</i>	<i>Welcome to the Course & An Introduction to Our Fabulous Fashion Designers</i>	<i>The Development of French Fashion Supremacy & the Birth of Haute Couture</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>March 30</i>	<i>Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel Presentation: Lily Traves</i>	<i>Elsa Schiaparelli Presentation: Jonathan Shiff</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>April 6</i>	<i>Cristobal Balenciaga Presentation: Katy Gilchrist</i>	<i>Christian Dior Presentation: Fran Lourie</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>April 13</i>	<i>Pierre Balmain Special Presentation</i>	<i>Pierre Cardin Presentation: TBA</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>April 20</i>	<i>Hubert de Givenchy Presentation: Robbie English</i>	<i>Yves Saint Laurent Presentation: Suzanne Lewis</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>April 27</i>	<i>Halston Presentation: Shula Schoenfeld</i>	<i>Vivienne Westwood Presentation: Gloria DePaola</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>May 4</i>	<i><u>Documentary Film</u> The Battle at Versailles Fashion Show</i>	<i><u>Documentary Film</u> The Battle at Versailles Fashion Show</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>May 11</i>	<i><u>Special Session</u> A Tribute to Designers of Color Presentation</i>	<i><u>Special Session</u> A Tribute to Designers of Color Class Discussion</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>May 18</i>	<i>Gianni Versace Presentation: Celene Healy & Mary Welch</i>	<i>Jean Paul Gaultier Presentation: Marsha Cain</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>May 25</i>	<i>John Galliano Presentation: Liliana Fijman</i>	<i>Alexander McQueen Presentation: Gordon Hayes</i>

Weekly Reading & Video Assignments
A History of Fabulous Fashion Designers:
From Charles Frederick Worth to Alexander McQueen

WEEK 1 – MARCH 23
Session A
WELCOME TO THE COURSE



Session B
THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRENCH FASHION SUPREMACY
& THE BIRTH OF HAUTE COUTURE

Louis XIV, Marie Antoinette & Rose Bertin, Charles Frederick Worth & Empress Eugenie
Presentation: Kip 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/>

Marie Antoinette & Her Couturiere Rose Bertin -- “Coco Chanel du Rococo.” by Nina Moller, Epochs of Fashion & Style (4 pages)

Rose Bertin, sole purveyor of gorgeous gowns and accessories to the extravagant Queen Marie Antoinette, was known in her day as “The Minister of Fashion” and is now recognized as the “first fashion designer” for her remarkable role in sartorial history.

<https://www.epochs-of-fashion.com/fashion-icons-in-history/marie-antoinette-and-her-tailor-rose-bertin/>

Charles Frederick Worth, the Empress Eugenie, and the Invention of Haute Couture, by Olivier Courteaux, Napoleon.org (10 pages)

In this article Olivier Courteaux, who holds a Doctorate in History from the University of Paris-Sorbonne, discusses how the collaboration which created “haute couture” evolved between Empress Eugenie and Charles Frederick Worth, the “Father of Haute Couture.”

<https://www.napoleon.org/en/history-of-the-two-empires/articles/charles-frederick-worth-the-empress-eugenie-and-the-invention-of-haute-couture/>

Video

Charles Frederick Worth, The One Show, 2016 (4 minutes)

Daphne Selfe, Britain's oldest working model, narrates the tale of bygone superstar designer Charles Frederick Worth, who created the fashion industry as we know it today.

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

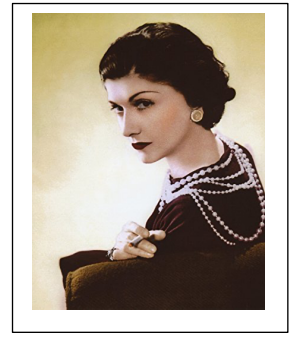
Video (Optional)

Power Dressing, Lecture 3 – Petticoat Politics: Empress Eugenie and the Carnival Empire, by Sylvia Sagona, 2017 (1 hour, 42 minutes)

This is the third of a three-part documentary series that provides a fascinating historical perspective on the power and politics of fashion. NOTE: Watch as much or as little as you wish of this rather lengthy video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15ZHTwEY3SI>

WEEK 2 – MARCH 30
Session A
GABRIELLE “COCO” CHANEL
Presentation: Lily Traves



Reading Assignment

The Legend of Coco Chanel by Aria Darcella & Benjamin Galopin, CR Muse, August 2019 (11 pages)

Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel, one of the most heralded fashion designers of all time, rose far beyond the limitations that her era set for women. Harold Koda, former curator of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, once said, “As a phenomenon, Chanel shoulders a lot of different narratives...her life has a kind of mythic quality.” <https://www.crfashionbook.com/culture/a27525454/cr-muse-coco-chanel/>

Videos

Coco Chanel: From Fashion Icon to Social Revolutionary, New Scope Productions, 2012 (9 minutes)

This award-winning video, created for National History Day in 2012, tells the story of Chanel’s revolutionary rise in fashion and features interviews with designer Chloe Dao of “Project Runway” fame as well as several prominent fashion historians. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrapOH4tQQ8>

“Life Codes” by Coco Chanel, British Vogue, 2018 (2 minutes)

Glamorous models bring to life a number of Chanel’s most famous quotes at the Ritz Hotel in Paris – including her unforgettable admonishment, “Always keep your heels, head, and standards high.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTg8gKfq8TI>



Session B
ELSA SCHIAPARELLI
Presentation: Jonathan Shiff

Reading Assignment

Shocking Life, Maison Schiaparelli Website (c. 10 pages)

A thoughtful homage to the milestones in the “shocking life” of legendary couturiere Elsa Schiaparelli. (NOTE: The article is divided into 5 “chapters” indicated at the top of the first page – or click “Next Chapter” at the bottom right to continue.)

<https://www.schiaparelli.com/en/21-place-vendome/the-life-of-elsa/#4>

Inside the World of Elsa Schiaparelli, by Hattie Crisell, British Vogue, 2018 (Photo Tribute)

Elsa Schiaparelli collaborated with surrealist genius Salvador Dali and dressed superstar actresses such as Greta Garbo and Katharine Hepburn. In this comprehensive photo tribute, British Vogue examines the designer’s extraordinary legacy.

<https://www.vogue.co.uk/gallery/elsa-schiaparelli-life-in-pictures>

Videos

Elsa Schiaparelli on “What’s My Line,” 1952 (4 minutes)

The ultra-stylish Schiaparelli appears as the mystery celebrity attempting to stump the panelists charged with guessing her identity in this vintage clip from television’s Golden Era.

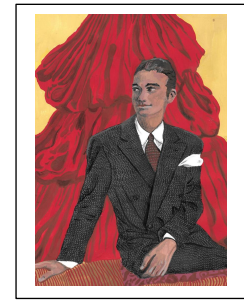
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFPVvBjWR_c

Preview of Schiaparelli and Prada: Impossible Conversations, ARTINFO, 2012 (3 minutes)

Andrew Bolton, Curator of the Met’s Costume Exhibit for 2012, discusses how he created imaginary conversations between these two designers – which focused on such subjects as politics, feminism, & art -- as a backdrop to the show that featured their magnificent creations. He also notes that, significantly, Schiaparelli’s work provides the context for Prada’s and that Prada’s work modernizes Schiaparelli’s.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iA0RGHznFd8>

WEEK 3 – APRIL 6
Session A
CRISTOBAL BALENCIAGA
Presentation: Katy Gilchrist



Reading Assignment

The Mysterious Cristobal Balenciaga, by Susan Irvine, Fashion Telegraph, September 2013 (9 pages)

Cristóbal Balenciaga continues to be revered as the supreme deity of Parisian fashion long after his death. Dior proclaimed him “The Master of Us All” and Chanel said he alone was a couturier, “...the rest are just fashion designers.” Women’s Wear Daily called him The King and Vogue insisted, “What Balenciaga does today, others will do tomorrow.” Intensely private, Balenciaga became the ultimate fashion legend nonetheless.

<http://fashion.telegraph.co.uk/news-features/TMG10275681/The-mysterious-Cristobal-Balenciaga.html>

Videos

Balenciaga & His Legacy, Davideo 2000, 2011 (6 minutes)

A captivating look, with musical accompaniment, at a gorgeous array of Balenciaga’s designs from an exhibition held at Dallas’ Meadows Museum in 2007.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0lc-xyEYL4>

How Balenciaga Was Inspired by the Old Masters, Christie’s 2019 (5 minutes).

Madrid’s Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum held an exhibition in 2019 entitled “Balenciaga and Spanish Painting.” In this video, Christie’s Old Masters Specialist Jonquil O’Reilly and exhibition curator Eloy Martínez de la Pera use stunning juxtapositions of Balenciaga’s designs and the paintings themselves, from the museum floor, to demonstrate how the work of Balenciaga, who was a great devotee of art history, was profoundly influenced by the paintings of the Old Spanish Masters. What an exhibit!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_SIObCO0CE

Shaping Fashion, Victoria & Albert Museum, 2017 (3 minutes)

This transformative animated video shows how Balenciaga’s iconic designs have inspired the work of other designers – past and present – with his revolutionary ideas and extraordinary skills.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAsPg2PdL1o>

Session B
CHRISTIAN DIOR
Presentation: Fran Lourie

Reading Assignment

The New Look: A Legend, La Maison Dior Website (c. 10 pages)

Christian Dior’s *haute-couture* collection of February 1947, quickly dubbed “The New Look,” revolutionized post-war fashion worldwide. A very bold statement but alas, ‘tis true!

https://www.dior.com/couture/nl_nl/a-maison-dior/the-story-of-dior/the-new-look-revolution

When Skirts Were Full and Women Were Furious, by Annalisa Barbieri, The Independent, March 1996 (4 pages)

Dior’s New Look produced not only adulation but also outrage when it first debuted in 1947.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/when-skirts-were-full-and-women-were-furious-1340021.html>

Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams Exhibition, V & A Website, 2019 (14 pages, largely photographs)

This comprehensive exhibition, held at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London in 2019, included over 200 rare garments drawn from the V&A’s couture collection as well as accessories, fashion photography, film, vintage perfume, original make-up, illustrations, magazines, and Christian Dior’s personal possessions.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/inside-the-christian-dior-designer-of-dreams-exhibition>



Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams, Time Out, 2019 (8 pages)

An excellent summary of the meticulously curated Dior exhibit held at the Brooklyn Museum from September 2021 – February 2022, which drew absolute rave reviews from critics and public alike. Includes numerous photographic illustrations that provide a good idea of the scope of this undertaking!

<https://www.timeout.com/newyork/museums/christian-dior-designer-of-dreams>

Videos

How Christian Dior Reinvented Fashion, Haute Le Mode, 2017 (8 minutes)

A colorful presentation by youthful vlogger Luke Marr that focuses on Dior's life, his philosophy, and his stunning career achievements, with rare live footage from Dior's atelier and runway shows.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmVmrhafMb0&feature=youtu.be>

The Scenography of the “Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams” Brooklyn Exhibition, 2021 (2 minutes)

A brief video tour of the Brooklyn Museum exhibit that highlights the brilliant scenographic placement of Dior's designs throughout the exhibition space. Dazzling installations include an 18th century room inspired by the Trianon at Versailles, an extraordinary “Wall of Color,” an enchanted night garden with gowns reaching to the sky, and a “Star Room” featuring Dior creations worn by famous celebrities over the years.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zx5tAtWPkd0>

WEEK 4 – APRIL 13

Session A

PIERRE BALMAIN

Special Presentation

***A Royal Wardrobe: Fashion, Politics, & Culture
in the Partnership of Pierre Balmain & Queen Sirikit of Thailand
Kip Brott***



Reading Assignment

Pierre Balmain, Maison Balmain Website (10 pages)

The House of Balmain, founded in 1945, established a tradition of opulent designs and feminine grace that made Monsieur Balmain a favorite of royalty and Hollywood stars alike. Over the decades, Balmain's trailblazing spirit has been honored and perpetuated by his distinguished successors.

<https://www.balmain.com/us/balmain/pierre-balmain>

Gertrude Stein on Pierre Balmain's 1945 Couture Debut—Plus, a Look Back at the Designer's Best Looks in Vogue, by Laird Borrelli-Persson, Vogue, 2019 (3 page + slide shows)

A charming little article from *Vogue* tells us that Balmain befriended avant-garde writer Gertrude Stein and her life partner Alice B. Toklas and made garments for them which they relished. In fact Toklas once wrote after Balmain's presentation of his first collection, "suddenly there was the awakening to a new understanding of what mode really was, the embellishment and the intensification of women's form and charm." Who knew these literary members of the intelligentsia would become two of Balmain's fashion groupies? Don't miss the wonderful slide show of 22 Balmain designs at the end of the article – click the arrows on the right to view!

https://www.vogue.com/article/gertrude-stein-on-pierre-balmain-couture-debut-1945-pierre-balmain-best-looks-in-vogue-from-the-archives?utm_source=VOGUE_REG_GATE

Fit for a Queen: Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's Wardrobe Created by Pierre Balmain, Google Arts & Culture (c. 35 pages, mainly photographs)

An excellent in-depth slide show and commentary on the 20+ year collaboration between Queen Sirikit and Balmain that served as the basis for an exhibition at the QS Museum of Textiles, Bangkok, in 2016-2018. Don't miss the exhibition video at the end!

<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/fit-for-a-queen-her-majesty-queen-sirikit%E2%80%99s-wardrobe-created-by-pierre-balmain%C2%A0/xAJSA6Wcte14LA>

Videos

French Fashion Designer Pierre Balmain's Rainwear, Vintage Fashion, 1952 (2 minutes)

Balmain's rainwear made a big splash in the fashion world! Check out this vintage fashion video for a look at these chic & sophisticated designs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o90qnN8k5Z4>

First Fall Fashions Unveiled in Paris, Critical Past (2 minutes)

A vintage preview of Balmain's collection for Fall, 1963 -- the first major fashion show of that season.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU7WEpJGuws>

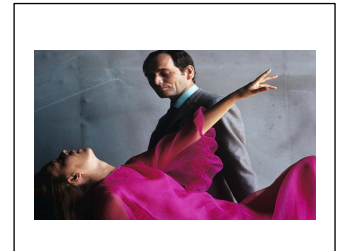
**Session B - Date
PIERRE CARDIN
Presentation: TBA**

Reading Assignment

Pierre Cardin: Designer, Pierre Cardin Website (11 pages)

In sophisticated graphic format, this article takes a look at Cardin's long and eventful life as an international leader in fashion design. (NOTE: Scroll down on the blue dot to view the entire chronological sequence.)

<https://pierrecardin.com/designer>



Eternal Futurist of Fashion Pierre Cardin Opens New Museum at 92, by Helen Rowe & Anne-Laure Mondesert, Dawn, 2014 (5 pages)

The Past-Present-Future Museum in Paris charts the 60-year career of avant-garde designer Pierre Cardin, who has always tended to look forward rather than backward.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1144060>

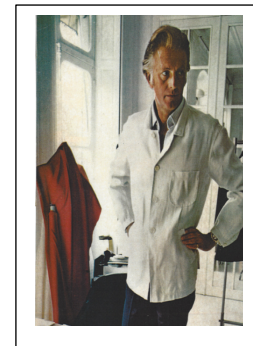
Video

Pierre Cardin Turns Fashion on Its Head, CBS Sunday Morning with David Turecamo, 2012 (5 minutes)

Cardin is considered one of the premiere fashion designers of his generation. But his work wasn't always in vogue. In fact, as a young designer he took on the titans of the industry with formidable flair and derring-do!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INAB8lnZpT4>

WEEK 5 – APRIL 20
Session A
HUBERT de GIVENCHY
Presentation: Robbie English



Reading Assignment

The Fashion Legacy of Hubert de Givenchy -- “Creator of Personality,” by Rachel Syme, The New Yorker, 2018 (4 pages)

Givenchy’s vision was clear from the outset -- to give women in the postwar era more plentiful options. His idea to design “separates”—couture tops and bottoms that could be mixed and matched—was quite innovative at the time. Who ever heard of a two-piece ballgown? A fashion reporter for the New York Times gushed after meeting Givenchy, in 1952, “By giving her the opportunity to make changes in her costume, the designer feels that he is offering his client the pleasure of feeling herself a bit of a creator of her own style.”

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/on-and-off-the-avenue/the-fashion-legacy-of-hubert-de-givenchy-creator-of-personality>

Givenchy and Hepburn: The Original Brand Ambassadors, by Vanessa Friedman, New York Times, March 2018 (7 pages)

Hubert de Givenchy and Audrey Hepburn, the gifted designer and his celebrated actress muse, created a relationship that has become the ultimate example of fashion collaboration – and the envy of branding mavens everywhere!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/13/fashion/hubert-de-givenchy-audrey-hepburn-designer-muse.html>

Video

The Life ... of Hubert de Givenchy, Famous Biographies, 2020 (5 minutes)

After apprenticeships with numerous acclaimed designers, Givenchy opened his own fashion house in 1952 and continued to design for the world of international fashion celebrities – especially Audrey Hepburn – until 2008. His work was known for its chic flair and elegant femininity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pj489quk59s>

Session B
YVES SAINT LAURENT
Presentation: Suzanne Lewis



Reading Assignment

How One Man Changed Fashion Forever, by Dominic Lutyens, BBC Designed, 2017 (10 pages)

Saint Laurent made his mark as a rebellious avant-garde designer and decades later he retains his cult appeal.

<http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20170918-two-new-museums-pay-homage-to-the-iconic-yves-saint-laurent>

Videos

Yves Saint Laurent: Style is Eternal, Hantang Culture, 2020 (19 minutes)

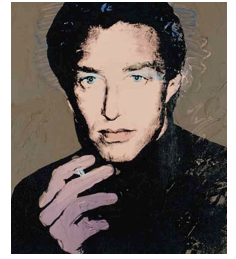
An inside look at YSL’s career from the Musée Yves Saint Laurent in Paris. In creating some of the most iconic looks of the late 20th century, including the Mondrian collection and Le Smoking suit, Saint Laurent defined the style of the 1960s and beyond. As the narrator of this video states, “These unprecedented designs caused a sensation in the fashion industry and gained instant popularity with modern women.”

<https://youtu.be/LEeDg92vBqk>

Yves Saint Laurent’s Ballet Russe Collection on the Runway, TRAC!, 1976 (5 minutes)

This legendary collection was a brilliant spectacle inspired by YSL’s love of Russian culture, especially Sergei Diaghilev’s Ballet Russe and characters from Russian literature such as Anna Karenina and Natasha Rostova. “A revolution,” proclaimed The International Herald Tribune, “the most dramatic and expressive show ever seen in Paris!” Forget the naysayers who said high fashion was in the doldrums -- haute couture had been reborn! Musical accompaniment by Loverman singing “St. Petersburg Nights.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPn177EIOXk>

WEEK 6 – APRIL 27
Session A
HALSTON
Presentation: Shula Schoenfeld



Reading Assignment

Halston's Women Have Their Say, by Ruth LaFeria & Guy Trebay, The New York Times, 2019 (4 pages)

Models, muses, and friends who were particularly close to the designer – known as the Halstonettes -- were central to the vision of a man who shifted the course of American fashion.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/24/fashion/the-halstonettes.html>

How Andy Warhol & Halston Transformed Art, Fashion, & Studio 54, by Sarah Kettler, Biography, 2020 (2 pages)

The collaborative friendship of fashion designer Halston and artist Andy Warhol had a lasting impact on pop culture.

<https://www.biography.com/news/andy-warhol-halston-friendship>

Videos

Halston Talks Fashion, Entertainment Tonight, 2021 (3 minutes)

A brief series of rare interviews with Halston which gives us insight into the man & his work. Also includes an interview with his dear friend Liza Minnelli, who states simply, "...he singlehandedly changed American fashion."

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

Roy Halston Frowick, Microtimer, 2009 (3 minutes)

This is a brief slideshow tribute to Halston, his lasting designs, and his array of celebrity friends and clients – including Liza Minnelli, Elizabeth Taylor, and Bianca Jagger. Catchy background music is "Together We Are Beautiful" sung by Fern Kinney.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6O_I1BkLYk

Halston – Official Trailer of a Film by Frederic Tcheng, 1091 Pictures, 2019 (2 minutes)

Trailer for a documentary that details the rise -- & fall -- of America's "first superstar designer." Reaching beyond the glitz and glamour, acclaimed filmmaker Frédéric Tcheng reveals Halston's profound impact on fashion, culture, and business. Includes interviews with numerous of Halston's famous clients to sing his praises and tell his story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pG499IzVjBE>

Session B
VIVIENNE WESTWOOD
Presentation: Gloria DePaola



Reading Assignment

Vivienne Westwood: Punk, New Romantic, & Beyond, V&A Website (20 pages, many pictures)

Throughout a dazzling career, Westwood has "forged a rebel aesthetic that is truly her own." In this article, her "trademark mix of provocation and respect for tradition" is captured in a look at key pieces in the collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/vivienne-westwood-punk-new-romantic-and-beyond>

Nothing Like a Dame: A Look Back at Vivienne Westwood's Personal Style as She Turns 80, by Laird Borrelli-Persson, Vogue, April 7, 2021 (Text with many wonderful pictures)

A delightful look at Dame Vivienne Westwood's long & eventful career full of "unforgettable runway experiences" and "a great number of personal style moments as well." An absolute must-see!

<https://www.vogue.com/article/decoding-the-personal-style-of-vivienne-westwood>

Video

I-Cons: Vivienne Westwood, I-D, 2016 (10 minutes)

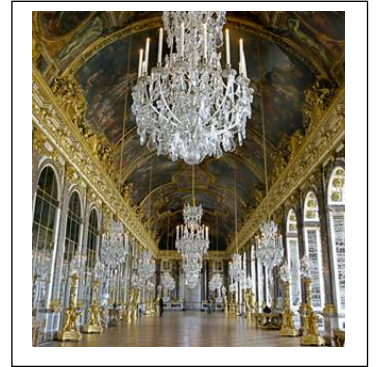
Vivienne Westwood pioneered the punk look and eventually became Britain's best-loved designer. In the opening minute of this look at Westwood's remarkable career, the video's narrator tells us that Westwood demonstrated that "fashion could be more than just about clothes – it could be about protest too!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECZJE16uyPw>

WEEK 7 – MAY 4
Session A & Session B

DOCUMENTARY FILM
BATTLE AT VERSAILLES

*The historic fashion show held in 1973 where
American designers scored a stunning triumph.*



Class Discussion to Follow

Reading Assignment

The Battle of Versailles: A French-American Fashion Showdown, by Juliette Demas, France-Amerique, 2017 (5 pages)

The article's author tells us that, "Five American designers and five French fashion hotshots went head-to-head for a runway show at the Château de Versailles on November 28, 1973. The event's objective was to raise money to restore the château, and it saw the United States make its grand entrance onto the international fashion scene that evening."

<https://france-amerique.com/en/the-battle-of-versailles-a-french-american-fashion-showdown/>

Versailles 1973: How One Show Changed American Fashion History, by Kristen Batemen, Harper's Bazaar, 2015 (7 pages)

In this interview with fashion critic Robin Givhan, she states that the groundbreaking fashion show held at the Palace of Versailles "...featured five French and five American designers and took place during a time when the French fashion industry was really overwhelmingly dominant..."

<https://www.harpersbazaar.com/fashion/designers/a11385/versailles-french-american-fashion-show/>

Videos

The Battle of Versailles Minisode, Fashion &, 2020 (3 minutes)

This brief video provides a clear, concise history of the fashion show at Versailles, an evening which pitted the French vs. the Americans. The video's creator even gives us an amusing imitation of Liza Minnelli, who opened the American portion of the show with "Bonjour, Paris!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrIRphU0GhY>

French Evolution/On the Street with Bill Cunningham, New York Times, 2014 (3 minutes)

Acclaimed street/society photographer Bill Cunningham breaks it down for us regarding the French style today & how it has evolved. Though Cunningham does not mention it in this video, he once stated in an interview elsewhere that the fashion show at Versailles was the best he'd ever seen -- in fact, it brought him to tears as he explained that the 1973 show was a stunning cultural phenomenon that not only marked a new era in fashion, but also was a marker in racial equality because the Americans used a significant number of black models.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5KZo7FA7kQ>

WEEK 8 – MAY 11
SPECIAL SESSION
A TRIBUTE TO DESIGNERS OF COLOR
Session A: Presentation by Kip Brott
Session B: Class Discussion



<u>Asian Designers</u>	<u>Black Designers</u>	<u>Latinx Designers</u>	<u>Native American & Indigenous People Designers</u>
Rei Kawakubo Issey Miyake Guo Pei Anna Sui Alexander Wang Vera Wang Yohji Yamamoto	Virgil Abloh Stephen Burrows Dapper Dan Elizabeth Keckley Ann Lowe Olivier Rousteing Willi Smith	Oscar de la Renta Carolina Herrera Narciso Rodriguez Isabel Toledo	Grace Lillian Lee Patricia Michaels Lloyd Kiva New Manaola Yap

Homework Assignment to Increase Awareness of Diversity in Fashion

Have fun with this! Pick an individual of color working in fashion today – a designer (from the list above or not), a model, a stylist, etc. -- and discover “One Fabulous Fact” regarding his/her life, career, style, or anything else you like. Come to class prepared to share this fact with your fellow classmates in a round-table discussion after the presentation. Photos or other visual images (book, magazine, or something you print out online) will be helpful to illustrate your point.

Reading Assignment

White-Washed Runways: The Effects of Racism in the Fashion Industry, by Olivia Pincock, The Fashion Law, May 2017 (3 pages)

Racism in fashion has proven hard to overcome. While failure to liberalize “white-washed” standards has been criticized and diversity has been encouraged by fashion’s critics, the industry itself has been characterized in many quarters by denial, excuses, and defensiveness.

<https://www.thefashionlaw.com/is-racism-stifling-creativity-in-the-fashion-industry/>

Fashion’s Racism and Classism Are Finally Out of Style, by Amanda Mull, The Atlantic, July 2020 (10 pages)

The toxic environment of the fashion industry is not new. But, as this article hopefully states, what is new is “everything else: the collective rage sweeping the country, the support for those within the industry who speak up, the fear that those at the top seem to feel. People with little power can imagine better workplaces and lives well within their grasp. It is now not quite so fashionable to be fabulously and unaccountably rich.”

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/07/fashions-racism-and-classism-are-going-out-style/613906/>

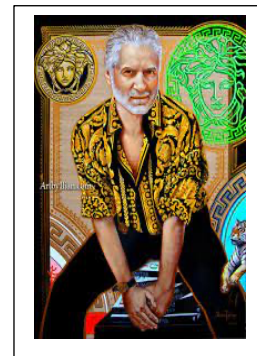
Video

The Next Generation of New York Fashion Designers, I-D, 2019 (12 minutes)

New York Fashion Week generates excitement city-wide – “It’s more than the President coming...!” one taxi driver avers. And increasingly, diversity is sought and found in a world that has never been known for inclusivity. African American designer Telfar Clemens sums it up this way: “If you do come here and you do hustle, sometimes it really does work out!”

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

WEEK 9 – MAY 18
Session A: GIANNI VERSACE
Presentation: Celene Healy & Mary Welch



Reading Assignment

Gianni Versace -- History, Designer Eyes, 2018 (18 pages, but largely photos)

This is an informative pictorial tribute to the life and career trajectory of Gianni Versace, who became one of the top fashion designers in the world with his smashing aesthetic and raging sense of color.

<https://www.designereyes.com/pages/about-gianni-versace>

Fashion Flashback: Gianni Versace & the Birth of the Supers, by Aria Darcella, Fashionista, 2018 (3 pages)

Gianni Versace created a sensation with his Fall 1991 fashion show (named Freedom 90 after the song by rocker George Michael), which featured a bevy of supermodels who had recently appeared in Michael's video for the song. The crowd went wild as the ladies lip-synched to the song on the runway – high fashion & pop culture had blended in a new way thanks to Versace! (NOTE: Michael's video and the fashion show video are embedded within this article – watch both if you like, they are relatively brief).

<https://fashionista.com/2018/08/gianni-versace-the-supers-models-freedom-90>

Video

Gianni Versace, Italian Fashion Designer, by Biography, 2014 (3 minutes)

Fashion was Gianni Versace's family business. He was raised in his mother's dress shop, and he went on to launch an international empire known for its flamboyant, body conscious, in-your-face fashion. As trend forecasting expert Catherine Moellering says in the video, "Armani dresses the wife – Versace dresses the mistress!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZ72qwPjFM4>



Session B: JEAN PAUL GAULTIER
Presentation: Marsha Cain

Reading Assignment

Jean Paul Gaultier – The Designer, JPG Website (9 pages)

This look at designer Jean Paul Gaultier's fashion philosophy – with exceptionally fine photographs – explains that "Jean Paul Gaultier made inclusiveness, diversity and the mix of genres the cheerful foundations of his universe. Here all skin types, all shapes, all identities are celebrated! And with Jean Paul, this vision of the world is more than political, it is natural, festive. He is said to be provocative, but he just wants to show the world as it is: diverse."

<https://www.jeanpaulgaultier.com/fr/fr/fragrances/la-maison-gaultier/le-createur>

Fluidity: From Gender to Fashion, Voir Fashion, 2020 (1 page)

In today's culture, gender roles are being questioned and stereotypes are being broken. Individuals in all levels of society are speaking out about gender fluidity and non-binary labels. Jean Paul Gaultier has been a huge influencer in androgynous fashion, questioning early on, "What is masculine and feminine anyway?"

<https://www.voirfashion.co.uk/post/fluidity-from-gender-to-fashion/>

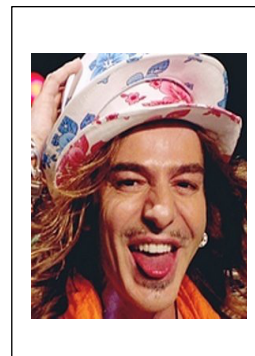
Video

Jean Paul Gaultier Talks Clubbing in London, Madonna, & Teddy Bears, I-D, 2018 (12 minutes)

Parisian provocateur Jean Paul Gaultier gives a delightful interview which readily demonstrates how he became a household name and a fashion legend in a career that has spanned over 50 years. And as he shows us, he even designed a cone bra for his teddy bear way before Madonna!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jZXBmBL5Cw>

WEEK 10 – MAY 25
Session A
JOHN GALLIANO
Presentation: Liliana Fijman



Reading Assignment

Fashion's Bad Boy Comes in From the Cold, Marie Claire, 2015 (4 pages)

Galliano enjoyed a meteoric rise in the international fashion world that sadly ended in his tragic fall from grace in 2011, when he was fired from the House of Dior for a racist rant in public that sidelined his career. In 2015 Galliano made a stunning comeback when he accepted the position of Creative Director at Maison Margiela, where he remains today still wowing the fashion world with his unique talents.

<https://www.marieclaire.co.uk/news/fashion-news/john-galliano-maison-martin-margiela-36767>

John Galliano Muses on a Genderless Fashion Future, by Rachel Tashjian, Garage, 2019 (6 pages)

In his work today, John Galliano – fashion genius, stylish revolutionary, and long-time purveyor of fantasy – increasingly focuses on the concepts of gender and sexuality. He states, “The millennials and the Z generation are really helping to shape what we consider masculine and feminine” – and cites celebrities such as Timothee Chalamet, Ezra Miller, and Billy Porter who exemplify the relaxed gender standards of contemporary society.

https://garage.vice.com/en_us/article/nex4eb/john-galliano-muses-on-a-genderless-fashion-future

Videos

“Geisha” by John Galliano for Christian Dior – Autumn Winter 1997, Fashion Channel (3 minutes)

Hands down -- John Galliano has created the most spectacular fashion shows of our time with themes that are provocatively mind-bending! This clip features the “Geisha” show from 1997, which was inspired by “Jayne Mansfield taking an exotic trip to the Orient.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyvCJIe1q98>

John Galliano, Autumn/Winter 2004-2005, Part 1, Fashion Channel, (4 minutes)

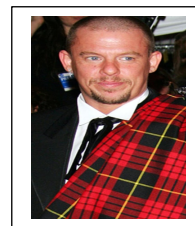
Here is John Galliano – like no other! This collection, according to the designer, was inspired by “romantic, poetic seafarers of the Yemeni tribe” – we’re off on another colorful trip into Galliano’s psychedelic, ethnographic imagination! (NOTE: Parts 2, 3, & 4 of this show are also available on YouTube if you wish to watch.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bhc86I3fAMk>

John Galliano – All the Crazy Exits, The Fashion Channel, 2015 (3 minutes)

A peek at Galliano’s runway extravaganzas over the years – climaxed by his ever-changing look as he takes a bow at show’s end! There is no limit to his genius – or his bravado!

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



Session B
ALEXANDER McQUEEN
Presentation: Gordon Hayes

Reading Assignment

Alexander McQueen: A Life in Fashion, British Vogue, 2010 (A comprehensive pictorial tribute with text)

The fashion world went into mourning following the death of Alexander McQueen, who committed suicide in 2010. The visionary designer won the BFC Designer of the Year Award four times during his stellar career, continuously pushing the bounds of imagination and creativity.

<https://www.vogue.co.uk/gallery/alexander-mcqueen-a-life-in-fashion>

Video

Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty, The Met, 2011 (8 minutes)

A grand tour of the unforgettable retrospective exhibition held at the Metropolitan Museum in 2011 to honor McQueen’s work, narrated by Andrew Bolton Curator of the Met’s Costume Collection. Many folks claim this was the greatest fashion exhibition they’ve ever seen! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg0HwLAJyV0>



A Virtual Field Trip: Fashion Designs at the RISD Museum Optional -- At Your Leisure!

Search the RISD Museum Collections!

Here's an optional opportunity to enjoy a "virtual" field trip at a marvelous local fashion resource – Providence's RISD Museum! Just click on the link below, enter the name of any one of our fabulous fashion designers, & **VOILA**...you'll find delightful images of garments and accessories created by this designer which are owned by the Museum! Then click on the words below the image to see the object enlarged and to read more information. You can search for as many of our designers as you like!

<https://risdmuseum.org/art-design/collection>

Videos

See below for videos of several recent fashion exhibitions held at the RISD Museum!

Artist, Rebel, Dandy: Men of Fashion, by A Suitable Wardrobe, 2013 (5 minutes)

This video explores the oh-so-stylish "Artist/Rebel/Dandy" exhibition held at the RISD Museum in 2013 to highlight the enduring global impact of the dandy -- that distinctively dressed male figure who has pervaded Western culture for more than two centuries.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KyvC89SCmk>

Todd Oldham: All of Everything, by Videofashion, 2016 (1 minute)

A quick look at "All of Everything," an extraordinary exhibition held at the RISD Museum in 2016 featuring the rich and fanciful creations of highly touted fashion designer Todd Oldham.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_CPR_Gbjtz8

Guidelines for Presentations
A History of Fabulous Fashion Designers:
From Charles Frederick Worth to Alexander McQueen
Kip Brott, Coordinator
Spring 2022

FORMAT

Following our historical timeline, **each week course 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 fashion designers prepared by the coordinator. We encourage everyone to sign up to present. If you wish, you may double up with a partner so long as all sessions are covered.

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 designer? 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 designers we will study in this course have achieved international acclaim in a glamorous field that is highly visible and notoriously competitive. They all had special talents that both reflected their era and shaped it as well. **Accordingly, you should focus on at least two key factors in your presentations:**

A. A biographical study of your fashion designer: Since the subject of our course is a history of fashion designers, 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 designers achieve fame in the fashion world? Our designers come from many countries, from different time periods, and from various stations in life. Considering this, how did they become world-class designers? Why did they capture the public's imagination? Did they have a "special something?" 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 taste, design genius, and cultural history are dynamically interrelated.

RESEARCH

A few suggestions for conducting research on your fashion designer:

A. The Internet has a wealth of information on the lives and impact of our fashion designers. Just enter a search request – for example, "Christian Dior" or "Christian Dior fashion designer" 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, Abe, 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 designers from the past 150 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 designer'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. Verify the compatibility in the week before your presentation – e.g., if you're using Power Point or Google slides bring your USB key/jump drive to the coordinator and test it with the equipment in the course room (this will just take a few minutes).

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, to borrow or buy (largely affordable)

Week 1

Session A: Introduction

Session B: The Development of French Fashion Supremacy & The Birth of Haute Couture

**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*

**Queen of Fashion: What Marie Antoinette Wore to the Revolution, by Caroline Weber, Picador, 2007*

**Marie Antoinette's Head: The Royal Hairdresser, The Queen, And The Revolution, by Will Bashor, Lyon's Press, 1st Edition, 2013*

Rose Bertin, The Creator of Fashion at the Court of Marie-Antoinette, by Emile Langlade, Forgotten Books, 2012 (Originally published 1911)

The House of Worth, by Chantal Trubert-Tollu, Thames & Hudson, 2018

**The Age of Worth: Couturier to the Empress Eugenie, by Edith Saunders, Indiana University Press, 1955*

Week 2

Session A: Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel

**Coco Chanel: An Intimate Life, by Lisa Chaney, Viking Press, 2011*

**Mademoiselle: Coco Chanel & the Pulse of History, by Rhonda K. Garelick, Random House, 2015*

Session B: Elsa Schiaparelli

**Elsa Schiaparelli: A Biography, by Meryle Secrest, Alfred A. Knopf, 2014*

**Shocking Life: The Autobiography of Elsa Schiaparelli, by Elsa Schiaparelli, V & A Publications, 2007 (Originally published 1954)*

Week 3

Session A: Cristobal Balenciaga

**The Master of Us All: Balenciaga, His Workrooms, His World, by Mary Blume, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2013*

**Balenciaga & His Legacy, by Myra Walker, Yale University Press, 2006*

**Balenciaga & Spain, by Hamish Bowles, Rizzoli International Publications, 2011*

Session B: Christian Dior

**Christian Dior: The Man Who Made the World Look New, by Marie-France Pochna, Arcade Publishing, 1997*

Christian Dior: The Biography, by Marie-France Pochna with an Introduction by John Galliano, Overlook Press, 2009

**Dior: The New Look Revolution, by Laurence Benaim, Rizzoli, 2015*

Week 4

Session A: Pierre Balmain

**Pierre Balmain: My Years and Seasons, Castsell, 1964*

**Pierre Balmain: 40 Annees de Creation, Preface by M. Jacques Chirac, Musee de la Mode et du Costume, 1985 (In French)*

**It Isn't All Mink, by Ginette Spanier, Collins, 1959*

**Fit for a Queen: Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's Creations by Balmain, by Melissa Leventon, River Boks Press, 2016*

Session B: Pierre Cardin

Pierre Cardin: 60 Years of Innovation, by Jean-Pascal Hesse, Assouline, 2012

**Pierre Cardin: Future Fashion, Foreword by Anne Pasternak & Preface by Matthew Yokobosky, Brooklyn Museum, 2019*

Week 5

Session A: Hubert de Givenchy

**Vogue on Hubert de Givenchy, by Drusilla Beyfus, Abrams Image, 2015*

**Audrey and Givenchy: A Fashion Love Affair, by Cindy De la Hoz, Running Press, 2016*

Session B: Yves Saint Laurent

**Yves Saint Laurent: A Biography, by Alice Rawsthorn, Harper Collins Publishers, 1996*

**Yves Saint Laurent: Icons of Fashion Design & Photography, Marguerite Duras, Harry N. Abrams, 2020*

**Yves Saint Laurent and Halston: Fashioning the 70's, by Patricia Mears, Yale University Press, 2015*

Week 6

Session A: Halston

**Simply Halston, by Steven Gaines, Putnam, 1991*

**Halston, by Stephen Bluttal, Phaidon Press, 2001*

Halston: Inventing American Fashion, by Lisa Frowick with a foreword by Liza Minnelli, Rizzoli, 2014

Session B: Vivienne Westwood

**Vivienne Westwood: An Unfashionable Life, by Jane Mulvagh, Harper Collins Publishing, 2003*

**Vivienne Westwood, by Vivienne Westwood & Ian Kelly, Picador, 2014*

Week 7
Session A & Session B
DOCUMENTARY FILM
Battle at Versailles

**The Battle of Versailles, by Robin Givhan, Flatiron Books, 2015*

Week 8
Session A & Session B
Special Presentation: A Tribute to Designers of Color

Young Asian Fashion Designers, by Dora Chan (Editor), Daab Pub, 2008

Black Designers in American Fashion, by Elizabeth Way (Editor), Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2021

14 Latinx Designers on How Their Culture Informs Their Work, by Barry Samaha & Bianca Betancourt, Harper's Bazaar, October 13, 2021

<https://www.harpersbazaar.com/fashion/designers/g34351282/latin-hispanic-fashion-designers/>

Native Fashion Now: North American Indian Style, by Karen Kramer, Prestel, 2015

14 First Nations Fashion Designers and Studios, by Angelica Xidias, Francesca Wallace, and Ciyva Venkataraman, Vogue Australia, July 4, 2021

<https://www.vogue.com.au/fashion/trends/four-indigenous-australian-fashion-designers-to-know-now/image-gallery/8f6fcee1cff25f8034a9f0b4881bea1e>

Week 9
Session A: Gianni Versace

Do Not Disturb, by Gianni Versace, Roy Strong, & Richard Avedon, Abbeville Press, 1996

**Rock and Royalty, by Gianni Versace et al., Abbeville Press, 1997*

**The Versace Legend, by Minnie Gastel, Baldini Castoldi Dalai, 2007*

Sessions B: Jean Paul Gaultier

**Jean Paul Gaultier, by Farid Chenoune, Assouline Publishing, 2005*

Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk, edited by Thierry-Maxime Loriot, Harry N. Abrams, 2011

Week 10
Session A: John Galliano

**Galliano: Fashion's Enfant Terrible, by David Foy, Unicorn Publishing Group, 2016*

John Galliano Unseen, by Robert Fairer, Yale University Press, 2017

**Galliano: Spectacular Fashion, by Kerry Taylor, Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2019*

Session B: Alexander McQueen

**Alexander McQueen: Blood Beneath the Skin, by Andrew Wilson, Scribner, 2015*

**Alexander McQueen: Genius of a Generation, by Kristin Knox, A & C Black Publishers Ltd, 2010*

**Gods and Kings: The Rise and Fall of Alexander McQueen and John Galliano, by Dana Thomas, Penguin Press, 2015*

Optional – At Your Leisure
A Virtual Field Trip: Fashion Designs at the RISD Museum

**Artist, Rebel, Dandy: Men of Fashion, by Kate Irvin & Laurie Anne Brewer, Yale University Press (in Association with Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design), 2013*

All of Everything: Todd Oldham Retrospective at RISD Museum, April – September 2016, Todd Oldham Studio Website <https://www.toddoldhamstudio.com/portfolio/all-of-everything-retrospective/>

**PLEASE NOTE: Books marked with (*) are owned by the coordinator and are available for loan to class participants to assist with presentations or for further study.*