

MODG01, Fashion Studies: Level 1, 30 credits

Modevetenskap: Grundkurs, 30 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2025-12-01 (U 2025/903). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course and can normally be included in a first or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: Swedish

Main field of study

Specialisation

Cultural Sciences with specialization in Fashion Studies

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of the broad changes in European fashion over time from the Middle Ages to the present day in relation to other aesthetic expressions and in the context of intellectual history
- give an account of ideas about fashion connected to societal changes, as well as the role of fashion in the transition from a society of estates to a modern consumer and class society
- give an account of commonly used textile materials, their aesthetic design and main historical and contemporary contexts
- describe and exemplify basic textile manufacturing techniques and compare production methods and organisational forms in handicraft and industrial production of clothes and fashion

- identify and describe central processes in how trade in fashion products has grown and how fashion is created through collaboration between specific key players
- identify and describe the different genres of fashion communication, both in print and digital channels
- give an account, at a basic level, of the emergence of the field of fashion studies, as well as some key concepts, issues and theoretical perspectives, possible source materials and research methods within the subject
- give an account, at a basic level, of some key sustainability aspects in textiles and fashion.

Competence and skills

- independently choose, document and analyse garments as material objects
- identify, describe and compare textile materials, their characteristics, techniques and uses
- search for, collect and evaluate information on selected fashion phenomena, and present, orally and in writing, selected fashion phenomena from the different perspectives of the course
- write, at a basic level, short investigative and critical texts relating to fashion studies e.g. fashion reportage, documentation assignments and dress history essays
- based on the course literature and their own findings, apply fashion and textile terminology and vocabulary in speech and writing
- stemming from selected issues reflect, orally and in writing at a basic level, on the fashion consumption of individuals in relation to global fashion production
- based on their own findings, demonstrate a basic ability to report and discuss, orally and in writing, information, problems and solutions in dialogue with different groups.

Judgement and approach

- adopt a source-critical approach and evaluate the usability of different communication genres in the field of fashion
- discuss critically, orally and in writing, the material aspects of the production and consumption of textiles, clothes and fashion, from relevant perspectives such as handicraft, industrial production, class, gender, sustainability, globalisation and ethics in time and space,
- reflect on and discuss, at a basic level and using independent examples and informed insights, the importance of material conditions for the conditions and development of fashion
- reflect on and discuss, at a basic level and using independent examples and informed insights, the creation of the symbolic value of fashion as produced by the actors in the fashion system and communicated in the arenas of fashion .

Course content

The course consists of four modules each worth 7.5 credits.

Module 1: Fashion and Cultural History 1350-1780s

The module covers the breadth of fashion studies as a multidisciplinary subject on the basis of, among other things, historical and cultural-scientific perspectives. The course provides overall knowledge of the development of dress history with a focus on the period from the Middle Ages to the 1780s. This is placed in relation to other aesthetic cultural expressions, placed in a general historical style context and in an overall intellectual history context. The module provides an initial overall presentation of some key concepts, issues and themes in the subject of fashion studies and initiates a conversation about the fashion expert's fields of expertise.

Module 2: Fashion and Cultural History 1790s-2020s

The module provides overall knowledge of the development of dress history from the 1790s to the present day. Fashion and clothing are placed in relation to other aesthetic cultural expressions and placed in general terms in the context of historical style, intellectual history and popular culture. The module also covers fashion's relationship to concepts of gender differences, estates and classes. The module involves discussion on the importance of clothes as social marker and symbol, as well as the importance of the cross-border role of fashion in the transition from a society of estates to a class society.

Module 3: Fashion and Textiles

The module provides knowledge and understanding of fashion as material and textile object and textile work. The module covers basic textile material science, as well as a theoretical understanding of manufacturing techniques within textiles with relevance to fashion, cutting and sewing, and production methods in haute couture, bespoke tailoring and ready-to-wear, as well as how these have been organised professionally. Teaching is mainly theoretical with some practical elements to support theoretical understanding.

Module 4: Fashion Actors and Arenas

The module provides a basic introduction on how contemporary fashion is organised, both as an industry and a cultural phenomenon. The module provides an understanding of how different parts of the fashion system and its actors interact to create the symbolic value of fashion, and how consumption, sustainability, globalisation and digital development (AI) affect the fashion system. The course also involves discussion on the emergence of fashion media and how the fashion industry is scrutinised from a critical perspective.

Course design

Module 1: The teaching consists of lectures, 3-4 seminars and approximately 1 study visit. The course includes 2 compulsory written assignments in connection with seminars and a compulsory quiz.

Module 2: The teaching consists of lectures, 3-4 seminars and approximately 1 study visit. The group work is reported by the group, non-attendance at the presentation entails a supplementary oral assignment.

Module 3: The teaching consists of lectures, 3-4 seminars and 1-2 study visits.

Module 4: The teaching consists of lectures, 3-4 seminars and approximately 1 workshop. The course includes approximately 2 compulsory written assignments in connection with seminars.

Participation in seminars and study visits is compulsory. Non-attendance at seminars is compensated for by a written or oral assignment. Non-attendance at study visits is compensated for by a written assignment and, in certain cases, individual visits.

Assessment

Module 1: Fashion and Cultural History 1350-1780s, 7.5 credits, is examined through a written take-home exam that has a time limit during the day (4.5 credits) and an individual written assignment (3 credits).

Module 2: Fashion and Cultural History 1790s-2020s, 7.5 credits, is examined through a written take-home exam during the day (4.5 credits) and a group project that is presented by the group, partly orally and partly through a short reflective assignment (3 credits). The group work is examined using the grades Pass and Fail.

Module 3: Fashion and Textiles, 7.5 credits, is examined through a quiz (3.5 credits) and an individual written assignment (4 credits).

Module 4: Fashion Actors and Arenas, 7.5 credits, is examined through a written take-home exam (4.5 credits) and a written assignment written individually or in pairs. (3 credits).

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

A grade of Pass on the course requires this grade on all assessed components. For the grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must also have been awarded this grade on at least 15 credits.

Entry requirements

General requirements

Further information

- The course is offered at the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University.
- The course replaces MODF01 and MODF02 and is identical to MODE01.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see the current registration and information material.
- The module titles in Swedish:

1. Mode- och kulturhistoria 1350–1780-talet
2. Mode- och kulturhistoria 1790–2020-talet
3. Mode och textil
4. Modets aktörer och arenor