



**Fall 2011 FAH 220  
Seminar in Medieval Art**

Wednesdays 6-9 pm  
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## **Medieval Dress Codes: Clothing, Textiles & Representation**

This seminar investigates the social constructions and social meanings (both public and private) of dress, costume, bodily ornamentation, and even nudity in the medieval West, c. 400-1500. Examination of the visual, textual and ritual discourses that created cultures of clothing, with attention to the intersections of dress with gender, religion, beauty and status. We will also consider the historiography of medieval dress, as well as cross-cultural, multi-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives on the history and interpretation of clothing and textiles in the Middle Ages.

Participation includes oral reports and 20-page research paper.

### **Course Requirements**

- Attendance at all seminar meetings
- Preparation of readings, discussion questions, other assignments
- Participation in discussion, workshops, feedback
- Presentation of discussion topic/readings
- Research project
  - project proposal
  - annotated bibliography (20 sources)
  - seminar presentation
  - draft of research paper (with presentation)
  - revised research paper (20 pages)
  - 2 conferences (1 post-draft)
  - weekly research updates/ discussions, including online discussions

## **Medieval Dress Codes: Calendar**

*For readings and assignments see Trunk course site*

**7 September:** Approaches to Dress History

### READING LIST

Taylor, "Introduction" to *The Study of Dress History*

Koslin & Snyder, "Introduction" to *Encountering Medieval Textiles and Dress*

Soper, "Dress Needs"

Burns, "Why Textiles Make a Difference"

Assignment: 'Styles and Histories', due 21 September

**14 September:** visit to MFA

**21 September:** Styles, Histories and Economies of Dress  
'Styles and Histories' presentations

**28 September:** Emblems of Identity

**5 October:** Global Economies and Gendered Labor

**12 October:** Dressing, Undressing and Cross-Dressing

**19 October:** Exotic/Excluded  
preliminary project proposal due

**26 October:** Transcendent Garb

**2 November:** Display, Performance, and Nudity  
revised project proposal and annotated bibliography due

**9 November:** Presentations/Drafts due

**16 November:** Presentations/Drafts due

**23 November:** no class meeting (Thanksgiving break)

**30 November:** Presentations/Drafts due

**7 December:** wrap up

**14 December final papers due**