

<b>Veranstalter</b>	Prof. Susanne Rohr
<b>Thema</b>	Dressed to Kill: Gender, Fashion, Power A Hamburg-Bonn-Berlin Joint Venture (with Prof. Dr. Sabine Sielke, Universität Bonn, and Prof. Dr. Laura Bieger, J. F. Kennedy-Institut, Berlin) -Plenum ist 2stündig, Kurs wird wegen Exkursion 3stündig angerechnet-
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	Seminar II [AA-V4, AA-W]
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	53-571
<b>Zeit</b>	Mi., 12-14
<b>Raum</b>	Phil 1219
<b>Beginn</b>	22.10.2008

### **Course Description:**

“If gender attributes [...] are not expressive, but performative,’ Judith Butler famously declared, “then these attributes effectively constitute the identity they are said to express or reveal.” Fashion and dress codes undoubtedly make up a significant part of these attributes which ‘engender’ us. And yet, fashion manages more: It is not only big business and part of an increasingly globalized culture industry which marks fine lines of class distinction by way of branding. Fashion has also been acknowledged as an art form that makes up an important dimension of the visual cultures that surround us in and impact on our – physical as well as economic – desires. In other words: Fashion maybe sold to us as “fun,” yet at closer inspection turns out a highly complex matter and means of constructing cultural meanings, values, and power hierarchies.

In this seminar, we will explore these complexities by studying theories of fashion (by Georg Simmel, Thorstein Veblen, Roland Barthes, Judith Butler, and Dick Hebdige among others) and examining forms and cultural functions of fashion in a number of historical contexts and cultural practices, including literature, (fashion) photography, film, and TV. As a first step, we will evolve the main – historical as well as theoretical – questions that will structure our investigations. Taking off from representations of fashion in late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century literary texts, our debates move to the development of fashion photography and the relation between the fashion industry and the format of the TV series. In five seminar sessions, we lay the ground for further discussions on fashion and gender; fashion as culture industry; fashion and the body; men and fashion; fashion magazines and glamour, and cross-dressing and gender bending.

The format of this seminar will differ in many ways from the regular seminar set-up. Most importantly, the very same seminar will also be taught by Prof. Dr. Sabine Sielke at Bonn University and Prof. Dr. Laura Bieger and Annika Reich at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin, and the main idea is that the three seminars cooperate in the course of the term. Thus, after our **five introductory seminar sessions in Hamburg (Wednesday, October 22, 29, November 12, 26, and December 10)**, you will prepare the meeting with the groups from Bonn and Berlin, which will take place in Berlin on Friday, 23 January 2009 to Saturday, 24 January 2009. The meeting will take the form of a combined workshop/symposium during which all of the students who want to gain credit for this course will have to give a presentation to be discussed by the audience either individually or in groups (depending on the number of participants). Students who want to gain full credit will have to transform their presentation into a 15-page seminar paper. To help us hold a productive symposium, there will also be a quiz on Wednesday, January 14, examining the mandatory reading for the Berlin event.

**Credit requirements** are thorough preparation of the assigned texts, regular active participation, an oral presentation to be presented in Berlin, the preparatory quiz, a seminar paper, and the willingness to travel to Berlin in January 2009 (we will see to it that you will be hosted by a Berlin student).

The required reading material will be collected in a reader, which you can buy at Ms. Zajac's office in room 103.

Please find additional material on the reserve shelf (Handapparat) in the library.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Dienstag, von 16-17 Uhr in Phil 1256
Sprechstunde während der Semesterferien:	siehe Aushang