

<b>Veranstalter</b>	<b>Prof. Dr. Susanne Rohr</b>
<b>Thema</b>	<b>Dressed to Kill: Gender, Fashion, Power [AA-MA5]</b>
<b>Art der Veranstaltung</b>	<b>Seminar IV</b>
<b>Veranstaltungsnummer</b>	<b>53-575</b>
<b>Zeit</b>	<b>2st, Mo. 12-14 Uhr</b>
<b>Raum</b>	<b>Ü35-11041</b>
<b>Beginn</b>	<b>16.10.2017</b>

### **Course description:**

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, 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 relation between the fashion industry and the format of TV series. In the following seminar sessions, we will lay the ground for further discussions on fashion and gender; fashion as culture industry; fashion and the body; fashion magazines and glamour; and cross-dressing and gender bending.

### **Texts:**

All texts for the reading assignments are available on Agora.

### **Requirements, Expectations, Procedures:**

1. Thoughtful, well-prepared participation in class discussions and consistent attendance will be a crucial part of my evaluation of your work in the course. Excessive absence (more than two classes) will be grounds for failure.
2. Three analytic essays (the first two about 5 pages long, the last one about 10 pages long), due at scheduled intervals throughout the semester (see syllabus). I will suggest topics, but you're free to develop topics of your own.
3. Each student has to function as an “expert” for one of the class sessions. Being an expert means a particularly thorough preparation of the assigned reading and the formulation of three theses on the assigned reading and three questions for the seminar discussion. The theses and questions ***must*** be posted on Agora one week before the day of the session at the very latest.
4. There will be an end-semester evaluation of the course. I encourage you, however, to give me feedback, make suggestions or express criticism at any time.
5. I will use this scheme in determining your final grade: 5-page essays 20 % each, 10-page essay 25 %, expert work 15 %, class participation 20 %.