Reformed Theological Seminary (NYC)

**FASHION THEOLOGY**

Systematic Theology 09ST6655/DE

2 Credit Hours

Fall 2023

Dr. Robert Covolo

**Catalog Description**

This course explores the fascinating ways theology intersects with fashion's social, aesthetic, linguistic, performative, narrative, and ethical elements. Moving beyond fashion as merely an expression of high-culture, fashion is assessed as a global phenomenon drawing on several registers that are basic to our human existence and condition. In doing so, participants gain essential tools for thinking theologically about not only fashion, but indeed, about numerous cultural practices that compose our everyday lives.

**Course Objectives**

After taking this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the myriad of ways fashion intersects with various domains of human experience.
2. Develop critical tools to analyze cultural practices as sites of theological meaning.
3. Gain an understanding of how the cultural practices associated with fashion effect the broader social imaginary of late modernity.
4. Articulate the value of theological retrieval for contemporary cultural theology.
5. Contribute to the emerging field of fashion theology by offering original insights into how fashion theology relates to a given subject.

**Course Format**

This is a two-credit hour course. The course will launch with four sessions during a two day in-person intensive Friday 9/29 6-9pm and Saturday 9/30 9am-6pm. This will be followed by seven evening synchronous sessions via Zoom: Tuesdays 7:00-8:30pm ET 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14.

**Course Instructor**

Robert Covolo, Ph.D.

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Phone: (562) 338-8163

We will conduct our communication via email. However, feel free to contact me via text or call should an emergency arise. Also, I am always available by appointment, including after class or by phone/Zoom. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss something. I will respond as promptly as possible.

**Required Reading**

It is recommended that students purchase volumes in **bold.**

Ambrosio, Alberto. "Invisible Dress, Weaving a Theology of Fashion," *Religions,* July 5, 2019. Available online [here](https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/10/7/419) [10 pp. assigned].

**Barnard, Malcolm. *Fashion Theory: An Introduction.*** New York: Routledge, 1996. ISBN: 9780415496216, Pub. Price: $51.96. [83 pp. assigned].

Buschart, David W. *Theology as Retrieval: Receiving the Past, Renewing the Church.* Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 2015. ISBN: ‎ 978-0830824670 Pub. Price $26.75 [20 pp. assigned].

Cameron, Elisabeth L. “Fashion, Not Weather” in *Contemporary African Fashion*, edited by Suzanne Gott, and Kristyne Loughran. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010, 53-65. ISBN: 9780253222565 Pub. Price $27.95.

Campbell, Colin. “The Modern Western Fashion Pattern, Its Functions And Relationship To Identity” in Ana Marta González and Laura Bovone, eds. *Identities Through Fashion: A Multidisciplinary Approach.* Oxford: Berg, 2012. ISBN: 9780857850584 Pub. Price: $33.56[13 pp. assigned].

Collins, Lucy. *The Ethics of Fashion*, Wall Street Journal, published online April 24 2014. Provided by professor [3 pp. assigned].

Cole, Julie and Graham Cole. *Fashion and Faith: How High is a Holy Hemline?* Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2022. ISBN: 978-1666716528, Publisher Price: $19.00 [33 pp. assigned].

**Covolo, Robert. *Fashion Theology.*** Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2020. ISBN: 9781481312738, Pub. Price: $39.99 [107 pp. assigned].

---------, Robert. “Herman Dooyeweerd, Christian Philosopher of Fashion” in *Pro Rege*, 41:4 (June 2013), Available online [here](https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1090&context=pro_rege). [6 pp. assigned].

---------, Robert. “Beyond the Low-Rise Jean: Traces of Resurrection on the Catwalks of the Late Alexander McQueen” in *The Other Journal*, published online December 30, 2013. Available online [here](https://theotherjournal.com/2013/12/30/beyond-the-low-rise-jean-traces-of-resurrection-on-the-catwalks-of-the-late-alexander-mcqueen/) [10 pp. assigned].

Dyrness, William. “Culture” in *The Earth is God’s: A Theology of American Culture*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2004. 58-85. ISBN: 9781592447954. Pub. Price $21.05 [30 pp. assigned].

Entwistle, Joanne. “Theorizing Fashion and Dress” in *The Fashioned Body: Fashion, Dress, and Modern Social Theory.* Cambridge: Polity Press, 2015. ISBN:  9780745649382 Pub. Price: $26.95 [37 pp. assigned].

Kline, Elizabeth. “The Twilight of the Ethical Consumer,” *Atmos*, October 10, 2020. Available [here](https://atmos.earth/ethical-consumerism/) [12 pp. assigned].

Lewis, C.S. “The Weight of Glory” in *The Weight of Glory And Other Addresses.* New York: Harper Collins, 2015. ISBN: 9780060653200 Pub. Price: $13.59 [16 pp. assigned].

Lipovetsky, Gilles. “The Progressive Shift of the Social” in *The Empire of Fashion: Dressing Modern Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994, 226-241. ISBN: 9780691102627 Pub. Price: $38.95 [15 pp. assigned].

Moltmann, Jurgen. “Introduction: Meditation on Hope” in *Theology of Hope.* New York: Fortress, 1993. 978-0800628246 Price: $29 [17 pp. assigned].

Negrin, Llewellyn, “Aesthetics: Fashion and Aesthetics—A Fraught Relationships” in Adam Geczy and Vicki Karaminas, *Fashion and Art* (London: Berg, 2012) 43-54. ISBN: 9781847887832 Pub. Price: $27.32 [11 pp. assigned].

Pierlott, Matthew F. “Sweatshops and Cynicism” in *Fashion: Philosophy For Everyone—Thinking with Style,* edited by Jessica Wolfendale and Jeanette Kennett. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, 169-185. ISBN: 9781405199902. Pub. Price: $22.75 [16 pp. assigned].

Seerveld, Calvin. “Joy, Style, and Aesthetic Imperatives with the Biblical Meaning of Clothes and Games in the Christian Life” in *Normative Aesthetics*, edited by John H. Kok. Sioux City, Iowa: Dordt College Press, 2014, 81-95. ISBN: 9781940567006 Pub. Price: $21 [14 pp. assigned].

----------, Calvin, “Ordinary Aesthetic Life: Humor, Taste, and ‘Taking A Break’” in in *Normative Aesthetics*, edited by John H. Kok. Sioux City, Iowa: Dordt College Press, 2014, 111-134. ISBN: Pub. Price: $21 [23 pp. assigned].

**Svendsen, Lars. *Fashion: A Philosophy.*** London: Reaktion Books, 2006.M ISBN: 978-1861892911Pub. Price: £14.95 [102 pp. assigned].

Taylor, Charles. “Equal Recognition,” in *Multiculturalism: The Politics of Equal Recognition*, ed. Amy Gutmann. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. ISBN:  9780691037790 Pub. Price $29.95 [49 pp. assigned].

--------, Charles. “How Narrative Makes Meaning” in *The Language Animal*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2016. ISBN: 9780674660205 Pub. Price: $35 [28 pp. assigned].

--------, Charles. “The Need for Recognition” in *The Ethics of Authenticity.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 1992. ISBN: 9780674987692 Pub. Price: $18 [10 pp. assigned].

Rublack, Ulinka.“The Look of Religion” in *Dressing Up: Cultural Identity in Renaissance Europe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780199645183 Pub. Price: $46.95 [43 pp. assigned].

Vanhoozer, Kevin J. “What is Everyday Theology? How and Why Christians Should Read Culture” in *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007, 15-60. ISBN: 9781441247506 Pub. Price. $30 [45 pp. assigned].

Ward, Pete. “Representation” in *God’s Behaving Badly: Media, Religion, and Celebrity Culture*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2011. ISBN: 9781481300469 Pub. Price: $24.99 [21 pp. assigned].

Willard, Timothy D. andJason R. Locy. *“*The Queen is Dead—Long Live the Queen” in *Veneer: Living Deeply in a Surface Society.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011. ISBN: 978-0310325635 Pub. Price: $17.99 [17 pp. assigned].

Willson, Cory and Robert Covolo. “When is a Mall Just a Mall? The Complexity of Reading Cultural Practices” in *The Other Journal*, published online February 2, 2012. Available online [here](https://theotherjournal.com/2012/02/02/when-is-a-mall-just-a-mall-the-complexity-of-reading-cultural-practices/) [6 pp. assigned].

Wilson, Elizabeth. “Explaining It Away” in *Adorned in Dreams: Fashion and Modernity*. London: Bloomsbury, 2020. ISBN: **9781350161993** Pub. Price: $16.06 [19 pp. assigned].

Wolterstorff, Nicholas. “The Social Practices of Art-Reflexive Art” in *Art Rethought: The Social Practices of Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN: 9780198801344 Pub. Price: $32.95 [21 pp. assigned].

**Required Viewing**

Participants are responsible for acquiring and viewing the following movies:

Morgan, Andrew, director. *The True Cost.* Untold Creative, 2015. 92 min.

<https://www.amazon.com/True-Cost-Stella-McCartney/dp/B07PMTFJT7>

Press, Richard, director. *Bill Cunningham New York.* Zeitgeist Films, 2010. 84 min.

<https://www.amazon.com/Bill-Cunningham-New-York/dp/B005MMY7GO>

Maysles, Albert, director*. Iris.* Magnolia Films, 2014, 89 min.

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne6tP9sqqU4*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne6tP9sqqU4)

Stiller, Ben, directory. *Zoolander.* Village Roadshow Pictures, 2001, 89 minutes*.*

[*https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.a2a9f793-4301-2b25-72a6-10437a155d0c?autoplay=1&ref\_=atv\_cf\_strg\_wb*](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.a2a9f793-4301-2b25-72a6-10437a155d0c?autoplay=1&ref_=atv_cf_strg_wb)

**Recommended Reading**

Brevik-Zender, Heidi. *Fashioning Spaces: Mode and modernity in late nineteenth-century Paris.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014. ISBN: 9781442648036, Pub. Price: $42.80.

Covolo, Robert. “The Theo-Politics of Fashion: Groen van Prinsterer and the “Terror” of French Revolutionary Dress” in *Neo-Calvinism and the French Revolution*, edited by James Eglinton and George Harinck. Edinburgh: T& T Clark, 2014, 81-98. ISBN: 9780567667441, Pub. Price $46.25.

Kealty, Céire. “Wearing the Good: A Kierkegaardian Exploration of ‘Messaged’ Apparel,” *Religions*, 12:8 (2021), 640.

Fetherstone, Mike. Body Modification. London: Sage, 2000. ISBN: 9781446264584. Pub. Price $71.

Jennings, Helen. “A Brief History of African Fashion,” NKA 2015 (37): 44-53.

Mackinney-Valentin, Maria. *Fashioning Identity: Status Ambivalence in Contemporary Fashion.* London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2017. ISBN: 9781474249126, Pub. Price. $30.92.

Marshik, Celia, *At the Mercy of Their Clothes: Modernism, The Middlebrow, and British Garment Culture.* New York: Columbia University Press, 2017.

Matteuci, Giovanni, and Stephano Marino, *Philosophical Perspectives on Fashion*. London: Bloomsbury, 2017. ISBN: 9781474237475 Pub. Price $22.28.

Meinhold, Roman. *Fashion Myths: A Cultural Critique. T*ranslated by John Irons. Bielefeld: Transcript, 2013. .

Miller, Janice. *Fashion and Music.* New York: Berg, 2011. ISBN: 9781847884145, Pub. Price $103.50.

Mota, Giovanna and Antonello Biagini, eds*. Fashion Through History: Costume, Symbols, Communication.* Volume 2. ISBN: 978-1527503458, Pub. Price: $115.26.

Riegels, Marie and Birgitta Svenson. *Fashion and Museums*, New York: Bloomsbury, 2014. ISBN: 9781472567932, Pub. Price: $27.32.

Rocamora, Agnés, and Anneke Smelik, eds. *Thinking Through Fashion: A Guide to Key Theorists.* ISBN: 9781350125209. Pub. Price $22.45.

Trueman, Carl. *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020. ISBN: 9781433556333.

Ukaegbu, Godson. *Fashion: A Second Language*. UK: Shoko Press, 2020. ISBN: 9780995470644, Pub. Price: $22.

Welters, Linda and Abby Lillethun, eds., “A Brief History of Fashion” *in The Fashion Reader*, 2nd ed. New York: Berg, 2011, 3-111. ISBN: 9781847885890, Pub. Price: 47.65.

**Assignments**

***Attendance:*** Students are required to attend classes. If you know you cannot make it to a portion of a class session, notify the instructor in advance. ***Grading Criteria:*** Multiple absences will impact a student’s final grade and can even result in failing to pass this class.

***Required Readings and Viewings*:** Students will complete approximately 850 pages of reading and 6 hours of viewing. (Roughly between 65-100 pages per week). Students should complete all reading and viewing by the deadlines in the course schedule below. Readings and viewings must be completed ***before*** the beginning of class each week. **NOTE:** ***Students will need to do a good deal more reading than usual before our in person intensive.*** Plan accordingly! The professor encourages students to consider purchasing the following core texts:

* Malcolm Barnard, *Fashion Theory: An Introduction* (New York: Routledge, 1996)
* Robert Covolo. *Fashion Theology* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2020)
* Lars Svendsen, *Fashion: A Philosophy* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006)

Additionally, Students are responsible for acquiring and viewing *The True Cost,* *Iris, Bill Cunningham New York,* and *Zoolander.* ***Grading Criteria****:* Students will be required to turn in a report detailing percentage of material read/viewed.

***Reading/Viewing Response* (RVR):** For Sessions 5-10 students will provide a minimum of 3 Canvas posts: The initial post will be an significant reflection on the week’s readings and viewings, either juxtaposing them or expanding on them, or critically or affirmatively engaging a particular point within them, or even offering an insightful prayer or poem that demonstrates clarity regarding the issues within them. The following posts will be response posts to either fellow students or a follow-up question from the professor. ***Grading Criteria*:** The initial RVR must be submitted before the beginning of its corresponding session to be credited. All subsequent responses must be completed by midnight on the Sunday after the germane session. Additionally, initial responses must cite (at least) one of the readings (with page number). Finally, the cumulative word count of all your posts must be no less than 500 words.

***Research Paper:***Students are required to write a research paper of 3,000 words. The paper should take up some aspect of fashion theology. Possible subjects include but are not limited to fashion theology and *art, the bible, the body, collective memory, communication, consumption, democracy, design, desire, embodied knowing, expression(ism), the environment, fast fashion, freedom, the good life, hope, language, lifestyle, literature, masks, museums, music, narrative, nudity, performance, personal identity, play, politics, resurrection, social identity (gender, class, race, etc.), subcultures, sweatshops, style, theological method, time, and visual culture.* In the final session participants will be asked to give a brief distillation of their research paper. ***Grading Criteria*:** The Research Paper will be graded as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Numerical Equivalents** | **Grasp of Subject** | **Qualities Expected** |
| 90-100 | Profound & Creative | Strong evidence of original thought, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound and penetrating critical evaluations which identify assumptions of those they study as well as their own; mastery of an extensive knowledge base |
| 85-89 | Outstanding |
| 80-84 | Excellent | Clear evidence of original thinking, of analytic and synthetic ability; sound critical evaluations; broad knowledge base |
| 77-79 | Very Good | Good critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; good familiarity with the literature |
| 73-76 | Good |
| 70-72 | Satisfactory at a post-baccalaureate level | Adequate critical capacity and analytic ability; some understanding of relevant issues; some familiarity with the literature |
| 0-69 | Failure | Failure to meet the above criteria |

***Ad/Dressing Scripture:*** Each student will take one passage of scripture dealing with dress and consult 3+ commentaries by way of researching and writing a 500-word distillation on the “scholarly consensus” regarding how that passage deals with dress. ***Grading Criteria****:* Evidence of 3+ commentaries consulted.

***Fashion Prayer****:* Each week our discussion thread will invite fashion prayers engaging the week’s given aspect of the fashion world under discussion. Prayers should be created in conversation with the readings and viewings of that week. [Note: It is ok if material in the fashion prayer overlaps with that of the *RVR*.] ***Grading Criteria:*** Prayers will not be graded but they do count towards class participation.

**Final Assessment**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment Type/Task** | **Percentage of the Course Average** | **Course Hours** |
| Required Readings/Viewings | 25% | 30 hours |
| Readings/Viewings Responses | 30% | 12 hours |
| Research Paper | 40% | 30 hours |
| Ad/Dressing Scripture | 5% | 5 hours |
| Fashion Prayer | N/A | 1 hour |
| **Total:** | **100%** | **78 hours** |

Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system (RTS Catalog p. 48). The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades based on each student’s attendance and participation in classroom discussion.

***Extensions****:* All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class. Extensions for assignments due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e., illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must complete an Extension Request Form. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed (RTS Catalog p. 42).

**Course Schedule**

**Session 1:** Why Fashion Matters

In-Person Intensive Friday 9/29 6-9pm

*Pre-Class Required Reading:*

* Malcolm Barnard, *Fashion Theory: An Introduction.* (New York: Routledge, 1996), 8-24.
* Robert Covolo, “Herman Dooyeweerd, Christian Philosopher of Fashion” in *Pro Rege*, 41:4 (June 2013), 1-6.
* Joanne Entwistle, “Theorizing Fashion and Dress” in *The Fashioned Body,”* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2015), 40-77. [Uploaded to Canvas]
* Lars Svendsen, “A Philosophy of Fashion?” in *Fashion: A Philosophy* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006), 9-20.
* Elizabeth Wilson, “Explaining It Away” in *Adorned in Dreams: Fashion and Modernity* (New York: I.B. Tauris, 2010), 47-66.

*Pre-Class Required Viewing:*

* [*Who is the Melbourne Flâneur:*](https://vimeo.com/364971486) Once you’ve finished viewing this take a walk and engage in some intentional fashion flâneuring.

*In-Class:*

* Lecture: “Why Fashion Matters”
* Lecture Discussion
* Discuss Readings/Viewing
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *Genesis 3:21*
* Fashion Prayer

**Session 2:** Theological Methods

In-Person Intensive Saturday 9/30 9am—Noon

*Pre-Class Required Reading:*

* Alberto Ambrosio, “Invisible Dress, Weaving a Theology of Fashion,” *Religions,* July 5, 2019. Available [here](https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/10/7/419).
* David W. Buschart, *Theology as Retrieval: Receiving the Past, Renewing the Church* (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 2015), 81-101.
* William Dyrness, *The Earth is God’s: A Theology of American Culture* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2004), 58-85. [Uploaded to Canvas]
* Kevin J. Vanhoozer, “What is Everyday Theology? How and Why Christians Should Read Culture” in *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2007), 15-60.

*In-Class:*

* View:[*32 Collections Touched by Divine Inspiration*.](https://www.vogue.com/article/met-gala-32-runway-collections-inspired-by-religion) *In what sense do these contain (transgressive) theological content? How does one think theologically about fashion when it is not explicitly theological?*
* Lecture: “Methods in Cultural Theology”
* Lecture Discussion
* Discuss Readings/Viewing
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *Leviticus 19:19*
* Fashion Prayer

**Session 3:** Fashion Theology & History

In-Person Intensive Saturday 9/30 1—3:15pm

*Pre-Class Required Reading:*

* Malcolm Barnard, “Fashion and/in history” in *Fashion Theory: An Introduction* (New York: Routledge, 1996), 57-72.
* Robert Covolo, “Fashion Theology as Tradition” and “Fashion Theology as Reform” in *Fashion Theology* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2020), 3-44.
* Ulinka Rublack, “The Look of Religion” in *Dressing Up: Cultural Identity in Renaissance Europe* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 81-124. [Uploaded to Canvas]
* Lars Svendsen, “The Origins and Spread of Fashion” in *Fashion: A Philosophy* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006), 36-62.

*In-Class:*

* Lecture: “Fashion, History and Theology’s Response”
* Lecture Discussion
* Go to the[*Fashion History Timeline*](https://fashionhistory.fitnyc.edu/). *What might the Proverbs 31 Woman (or her family) wear if she was from the 15th century? The 20th century? If you were to live in some period before the 20th century, which would you choose based on what you would likely wear and why?*
* Discuss Readings/Viewings
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *Proverbs 31:10-31*
* Fashion Prayer

**Session 4:** Fashion Theology & Public Discourse

In-Person Intensive Saturday 9/30 3:45-6pm

*Pre-Class Required Reading:*

* Malcolm Barnard, “Fashion, identity and difference” in *Fashion Theory: An Introduction* (New York: Routledge, 1996), 91-107.
* Robert Covolo, “Fashion Theology as Public Discourse” in *Fashion Theology* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2020), 45-65.
* Lars Svendsen, “Fashion and Language” in *Fashion: A Philosophy* (London: Reaktion, 2006), 63-74.
* Charles Taylor, “The Politics of Recognition,” in *Multiculturalism: The Politics of Equal Recognition*, ed. Amy Gutmann (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994), 25-74.

*In-Class:*

* Lecture: “Towards a Theology of a Fashionable Public Sphere”
* Lecture Discussion
* View*:* [*Who are the Public? Public Sphere, Opinions, Moods & History*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1Yv0FamjCw)*.* *Does fashion help or hurt the role of public opinion? Should theology play a role in public thinking?*
* Discuss Readings/Viewings
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *Psalm 45: 8-9; 13-14; James 2:2-4*
* Fashion Prayer

**Session 5:** Fashion Theology & Art

Via Zoom Tuesday 10/3 7:15-8:45pm

*Pre-Class Required Reading:*

* Robert Covolo, “Fashion Theology as Art” in *Fashion Theology* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2020), 67-90.
* Llewellyn Negrin, “Aesthetics: Fashion and Aesthetics—A Fraught Relationships” in Adam Geczy and Vicki Karaminas, *Fashion and Art* (London: Berg, 2012) 43-54
* Lars Svendsen, “Fashion and Art” in *Fashion: A Philosophy* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006), 90-110.
* Nicholas Wolterstorff, “The Social Practices of Art-Reflexive Art” in *Art Rethought: The Social Practices of Art* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), 272-293.

*Pre-Class Required Viewings:*

* Examinethe supplied images from the [*Heavenly Bodies:* *Fashioning and the Catholic Imagination*](https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2018/heavenly-bodies) exhibit. *How do these images serve as sites of (transgressive) theological meaning?*

*In-Class:*

* Lecture “Theology and the [Problem of the] Art of Fashion”
* Discuss Lecture & Required Readings/Viewings
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *Exodus 31:1-10; 39:1-30*
* Fashion Prayer

NOTE: Initial Reading/Viewing Response due by 10/3 7:15pm

Subsequent response posts due by 10/8 11:59pm.

**Session 6:** Fashion Theology & Ethics

Via Zoom Tuesday 10/10 7:15-8:45pm ET

*Pre-Class Required Reading:*

* Lucy Collins, *The Ethics of Fashion*, Wall Street Journal, published online April 24, 2014.
* Elizabeth Kline, “The Twilight of the Ethical Consumer,” *Atmos*, October 10, 2020.
* Matthew F. Pierlott, “Sweatshops and Cynicism” in *Fashion: Philosophy for Everyone,* edited by Jessica Wolfendale and Jeanette Kennett (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), 169-185.

*Pre-Class Required Viewings:*

* View [*The True Cost*](https://truecostmovie.com/). *What theological arguments can you muster to address the ethical issues plaguing the fashion industry?*

*In-Class:*

* Lecture: “Fashioning a Theology of Environmental, Economic and Social Justice”
* Discuss Lecture & Readings/Viewings
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *Matthew 25:35-40*
* Fashion Prayer

NOTE: Initial Reading/Viewing Response due by 10/10 7:15pm

Subsequent response posts due by 10/16 11:59pm.

**Session 7:** Fashion Theology & Everyday Drama

Via Zoom Tuesday 10/17 7:15-8:45pm ET

*Pre-Class Required Reading:*

* Robert Covolo, “Fashion Theology as Everyday Drama” in *Fashion Theology* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2020), 91-114.
* Calvin Seerveld, “Joy, Style, and Aesthetic Imperatives with the Biblical Meaning of Clothes and Games in the Christian Life” in *Normative Aesthetics*, edited by John H. Kok (Sioux City, Iowa: Dordt College Press, 2014), 81-95.
* Calvin Seerveld, “Ordinary Aesthetic Life: Humor, Taste, and ‘Taking A Break’” in in *Normative Aesthetics*, edited by John H. Kok (Sioux City, Iowa: Dordt College Press, 2014), 111-134.
* Charles Taylor, “How Narrative Makes Meaning” in *The Language Animal* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2016), 291-319.
* Cory Willson and Robert Covolo, “When is a Mall Just a Mall? The Complexity of Reading Cultural Practices” in *The Other Journal*, published online [here](https://theotherjournal.com/2012/02/02/when-is-a-mall-just-a-mall-the-complexity-of-reading-cultural-practices/) February 2, 2012.

*Pre-Class Required Viewings:*

* Watch [*Iris*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo8jwJ_2l0c)*. How does Iris use fashion and style to tell her story? How might fashion serve as a form of aesthetic “playfulness”? What needs do “dressing up” meet for children and adults?*

*In-Class:*

* Lecture: “Can Dress Be Joyful?”
* Discuss Lecture & Readings/Viewings Discussion
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *Genesis 37:3, 23, 31-34 39:12-18; 41:14, 42, 42:7, 12; 45:22. Ecclesiastes 9:8.*
* Fashion Prayer

NOTE: Initial Reading/Viewing Response due by 10/17 7:15pm

Subsequent response posts due by 10/22 11:59pm.

**Session 8:** Fashion Theology & (Social) Identity

Via Zoom Tuesday 10/24 7:15-8:45pm ET

*Pre-Class Required Readings:*

* Colin Campbell, “The Modern Western Fashion Pattern, Its Functions And Relationship To Identity” in Ana Marta González and Laura Bovone, eds. *Identities Through Fashion: A Multidisciplinary Approach* (Oxford: Berg, 2012), pp. 9-22.
* Malcolm Barnard, *Fashion Theory: An Introduction* (New York: Routledge, 1996), 71-108.
* Joanne Entwistle, “Fashion and Identity” in *The Fashioned Body* (Cambridge, MA: Polity Press, 2015), 112-139.
* Elisabeth L. Cameron, “Fashion, Not Weather” in *Contemporary African Fashion*, edited by Suzanne Gott, and Kristyne Loughran. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010, 53-65.

*Pre-Class Required Viewings:*

* Consider the supplied images of “African Fashion.” Reflect on the capacity of fashionable clothing for establishing identity. How does the fashion in these images relay African identity? What other kinds of identities are relayed in these images?

*In-Class:*

* Lecture: “Fashion, Theology, & (Social) Identity”
* Discuss Lecture & Readings/Viewings
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *Galatians 3:27-28; Isaiah 3:16-24*
* Fashion Prayer

NOTE: Initial Reading/Viewing Response due by 10/25 7:15pm

Subsequent response posts due by 10/29 11:59pm.

**Session 9:** Fashion Theology & The Good Life

Via Zoom Tuesday 10/31 7:15-8:45pm ET

*Pre-Class Required Readings:*

* Lars Svendsen, “*Fashion as an Ideal in Life* “ in *Fashion: A Philosophy* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006), 137-157.
* Charles Taylor, “The Need for Recognition” in *The Ethics of Authenticity* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 1992), 43-53.
* Pete Ward, “Representation” in *God’s Behaving Badly: Media, Religion, and Celebrity Culture* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2011), 35-56.
* Timothy D. Willard andJason R. Locy, *“*The Queen is Dead—Long Live the Queen” in *Veneer: Living Deeply in a Surface Society* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), 49-66.

*Pre-Class Required Viewings:*

* Watch the slapstick comedy [*Zoolander*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtQq0T3ExLs). *What stereotypes regarding fashion does it capitalize on? How does the character Derek Zoolander overtask fashion so as to meet deeper aspects of his humanity?*

*In-Class:*

* Lecture: “The Dark Side of Fashion”
* Discuss Lecture & Readings/Viewings
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *Matthew 6:28-43*
* Fashion Prayer

NOTE: Initial Reading/Viewing Response due by 10/31 7:15pm

Subsequent response posts due by 11/5 11:59pm.

**Session 10:** Fashion Theology & Hope

Via Zoom Tuesday 11/7 7:15-8:45pm ET

*Pre-Class Required Readings:*

* Robert Covolo, “Beyond the Low-Rise Jean: Traces of Resurrection on the Catwalks of the Late Alexander McQueen” in *The Other Journal*, published online [here](https://theotherjournal.com/2013/12/30/beyond-the-low-rise-jean-traces-of-resurrection-on-the-catwalks-of-the-late-alexander-mcqueen/) December 30, 2013.
* C.S. Lewis, “The Weight of Glory” in *The Weight of Glory And Other Addresses* (New York: Harper Collins, 1980), 3-19.
* Jurgen Moltmann, “Introduction: Meditation on Hope” in *Theology of Hope* (New York: Fortress, 1993), 15-32.
* Lars Svendsen, “The Principle of Fashion: The New” in *Fashion: A Philosophy* (London: Reaktion, 2006), 21-35.

*Pre-Class Required Viewings:*

* Watch [*Bill Cunningham New York*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYqiLJBXbss). *Why does Cunningham shoot street style? How does Cunningham’s work inspire?*

*In-Class:*

* Lecture: “Fashion & Hope”
* Discuss Lecture & Readings/Viewings
* Ad/dressing Scripture: *1 Corinthians 15:53-55*
* Fashion Prayer

NOTE: Initial Reading/Viewing Response due by 11/7 7:15pm

Subsequent response posts due by 11/12 11:59pm.

**Session 11:** How Should We Then Dress?

Via Zoom Tuesday 11/14 7:15-8:45pm ET

*Required Pre-Class Reading*

* “Wardrobe Wisdom” in Julie Cole and Graham Cole: *Faith and Fashion: How High is a Holy Hemline?* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2022), 49-81.

*Required Pre-Class Viewing:*

* View [*Tips for Getting Dressed on Sunday Morning*](https://www.thetunebucket.com/blog/tips-for-getting-dressed-on-sunday-morning). *Do you agree? Disagree? Anything you would add or subtract?*

*In-Class*

* Discuss Reading/Viewing
* Present Research Papers Topics
* Ad/Dressing Scripture: *1 Timothy 2:9-10*
* Fashion Prayer

NOTE: No Reading/Viewing Response due this week.