RM 1201: FASHION, ETHICS, AND CONSUMPTION
3 Credits; College Of Design,
Department of Design, Housing and Apparel
Retail Merchandising Program Area
This course meets CLE civic life and ethics theme

Instructor: Jung Mee Mun
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Office hours: By appointment
Telephone: 651-757-5134 (e-mail preferred)

Required Text:

Additional readings, videos, and resources are available on the Moodle course site.

Course Description
A liberal education has the goal of helping students develop both practical skills such as problem-solving, ability to effectively communicate, and the ability to apply information to everyday life as well as to develop a sense of who they are as citizens of a community. This course has been designed specifically for first year students to reflect on the ethical perspectives that shape decision making about an everyday product: apparel.

The apparel industry is the context used to examine our own ethical viewpoints and the meaning of citizenship. We document how public engagement has impacted the moral issues that historically evolved within this industry and how public engagement can be used to shape and change contemporary industry practices.

Specifically, students address the following: what is the concept of ethics and how does it differ from other related terms (e.g., morality, legality, self-interest, codes of conduct)? What are common ethical viewpoints and how have they developed? What ethical view(s) most closely aligns with their own? How did they develop their view(s)? What does it mean to behave ethically? How does a shared ethic develop within a community or organization? What is corporate culture? How does the culture of an organization promote ethical behavior? How do problems evolve within the apparel industry and what role does ethics and engagement in everyday life in perpetuating or solving these problems?

Course Objectives
By the end of the term students will be able to:
• Identify different ethical perspectives, their origin, and evolution.
• Reflect, question, re-establish your own moral viewpoints as they relate to purchase, consumption, and disposal of apparel.
• Describe and recognize moral problems linked to the design, production, retailing, and consumption of apparel.
• Recognize the effectiveness of public engagement in addressing and solving contemporary problems within the apparel industry.
• Apply knowledge of ethical viewpoints to contemporary problems within the apparel industry and offer solutions
• Apply knowledge of ethical viewpoints to contemporary problems associated with apparel consumption and offer solutions.

Student learning outcomes addressed in this course:
Can identify, define, and solve problems. Student learning outcomes are addressed through course writing assignments, (case studies, reflection papers), discussion questions, and learning activities. All of these are evaluated by the instructor and/or teaching assistant for the course.

Teaching Method
This online course uses a variety of learning approaches including documentaries, videos, exercises, case studies, reflection papers, and assigned readings. Students are graded based on their performance on quizzes, examinations, assignments, and completion of activities.

Discussion/forum activities and assignments provide you the opportunity to develop your thoughts about ethical issues facing workers in the textile and apparel industry, identify problems, propose solutions, develop your written communication skills, and reflect on your role as a potential future employee of this industry as well as a consumer of the products of this industry. You need to be prepared to share your ideas. Some activities are completed on an individual basis and others may be in small groups.

Release of Work Statement
Students understand that enrollment in this course grants consent for their work to be selected for inclusion in college or departmental publications (online or in print). Your instructor may select to use your work to represent her/his skills as an instructor in a teaching portfolio (online or in print).

Expectations of Students
In this course students are expected to check the course homepage, calendar and assignment page, your email, and the weekly Moodle course discussion boards throughout each week of the semester. (Do not forward your university email to another account. Your university account is the official notification vehicle of the university. If you do not receive information as a result of forwarding your account, you are still responsible for the information.) This course is offered entirely online through Moodle course management software. Readings, assignments, videos, forums, quizzes, examinations, chapter questions, other activities, and grades are all posted on Moodle. All writing assignments, chapter questions, and other activities are to be submitted through Moodle by the date/time indicated. All quizzes and examinations are completed on moodle. Complete all assigned readings/video assignments, quizzes, chapter questions, and writing assignments. Download assignments and readings and view videos early in the week. If you have difficulty with obtaining course material it is easier to solve problems in advance of when work is due than trying to assist you at the last minute. Although the course is available 24 hours per day, the instructor is not. Emails are unlikely to be answered instantaneously. Thus, plan for possible problems and give yourself time so that issues can be resolved before assignments and other activities are due. Please, do not wait until the last minute to complete course activities.

Students are not to borrow from the work of others when completing a writing assignment, quiz, chapter questions, or examination. Students are not to share the content of a quiz or examination with other students in the course. Using the work of someone else and claiming that it is your work (plagiarism) is a violation of the student code of conduct. Students can be dismissed from the university for violating the student code.

Students are expected to participate actively in discussion forums, applying the knowledge and concepts you have learned in the course. Participation is important in this course. When students share thoughts and experiences, class concepts become concrete in their minds as well as in the minds of other students. It is the
sharing of our experiences that helps us to learn from each other as well as about each other. Members of this classroom will practice inclusively. We will read and listen to one another's views with respect regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Practice Netiquette. Be polite and respectful in your postings (no trolling or posting / sending negative, hurtful comments to others); use good grammar and correct spelling; don't write in all caps (it feels like you're shouting) or exotic fonts (they may not show up on everyone's computer); sign your name. In short, present your best self!

**Policies and Procedures**

**Course Policies**

**Make-up policy**
A student, who cannot take an examination on the scheduled date, for any documentable reason recognized by University of Minnesota policies, will be provided the opportunity to make up the exam. Because the exams are available for a period of time, it is expected that students will not have difficulty completing the examinations as scheduled. However, prolonged hospitalization may necessitate alternative arrangements. A student is eligible for a make-up exam only if the instructor is notified prior to the scheduled exam and the absence is recognized by University of Minnesota policies as one that is excusable.

Email the instructor (munxx010@umn.edu) that you will not be able to take an examination on the scheduled date and time. Failure to notify the instructor that you are unable to take the exam at the scheduled time will result in a 0 on the examination. No exceptions! After emailing, follow up with providing appropriate documentation for your absence to the instructor as soon as possible. An alternative examination will not be set up for you if you do not send or deliver documentation to the instructor.

http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html

**University of Minnesota Policies and Procedures**

_The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct and student needs. Listed following are those that have relevance for this course._

**Disability Accommodations**
Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the instructor to work out the details for any necessary accommodation immediately. You will also need to work with the Office of Disabilities Services, 12 Johnston Hall, 612-626-1333. refer to http://ds.umn.edu/student-services.html and http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu

**Disruptive Classroom Conduct**
All activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the University of Minnesota Student Conduct Code. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment for others may be subject to disciplinary action under the Code. "Disruptive classroom conduct" is now an explicit violation of the Code. It is defined as follows: Disruptive classroom conduct means engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities.” In addition, students responsible for such behavior may be asked to cancel their registration (or may have their registration canceled).

**Scholastic Dishonesty**
Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments, quizzes, or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty
permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying of data, research procedures, or data analysis.” Discovery of academic misconduct is grounds for an “F” or “N” for the course.

refer to  http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf

Sexual Harassment
refer to  http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/humanresources/SexHarassment.pdf

Academic Freedom and Responsibility
refer to  http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/Academic_Freedom.pdf

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**Student Assessment**

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*Student performance in the course is assessed with six types of activities:

1. **Writing Assignments**
   There are three or four short (e.g., 2-3 page) writing assignments worth 20 points each assigned in this course. Directions for each writing assignment (e.g., assignment topic, grading rubric, due date and time) are posted on the moodle website. Read directions carefully. If you have questions, please contact me well in advance of the due date. Each assignment is due by the date and time indicated. If you fail to post by the date and time assigned, your post will be graded and then a deduction of 50% of the total value of the activity will be made for not meeting the deadline. Late submissions are accepted for one week after the due date specified. After that date, the work is not accepted. Submissions to the instructor’s email will not be graded. Graded assignments will not be returned. If you want to check your graded paper, please make an appointment with the instructor.

   *** If you have a problem with posting, you will have time to resolve it if you post early. If you have ongoing problems with your computer, you may want to use a computer in one of the computer labs supplied by the university.

2. **Quizzes**
   Quizzes test your knowledge and comprehension of course content. Quizzes are timed. Once you open a quiz, you will have a limited amount of time to complete it (generally this is 10 minutes). For example, if a quiz is composed of 20 true/false statements, you will have 10 minutes to complete it. The time allocated for a quiz will be indicated before you open the quiz. A 20 point weekly quiz is assigned each week on Mondays unless there is an examination scheduled. The quiz is available from Monday 8am to 10pm. In other words, you can open the quiz anytime between 8 in the morning and 10 in the evening. However, be reminded that you need to at least start the quiz at 9:50pm to have full 10 minutes of the quiz time (quiz time may vary online).

   Quizzes are objective in format (e.g., fill in the blank, true/false, multiple choice, or short answer). The material covered in the quiz is the material assigned the previous week of the class. Assigned material includes readings as well as videos. There are NO makeups on quizzes. In the assignment of the final grade for the course, ten quizzes out of eleven will be included. This means you can miss/drop one quiz for any reason without penalty, that is, if you have completed ten quizzes and are satisfied with the scores.

   *** You will be responsible for any technical problems. If you have ongoing problems with your computer, you may want to use a computer in one of the computer labs supplied by the university.

3. **Chapter Questions**
   Chapter questions are to be posted by the date and time indicated. If you fail to post by the date and time
assigned, your post will be graded and then a deduction of 50% of the total value of the activity will be made for not meeting the deadline. Late submissions are accepted for one week after the due date specified. After that date, the work is not accepted. Submissions to the instructors email will not be graded. Plan ahead and post assignments early. If you have a problem with posting, you will have time to resolve it if you post early. If you have ongoing problems with your computer, you may want to use a computer in one of the computer labs supplied by the university.

You are assigned questions about course materials each week (except when an examination is scheduled). This assignment is worth 10 points. You are expected to briefly answer each question using no more than 2 to 3 sentences. The questions are designed to assist you in focusing on important course content each week.

4. Exams
Examinations will be given as scheduled. Examinations are not given early for any reason. Plan your time and activities accordingly. There is an examination over the first third of the course material, the second third, and the final third. The first examination is scheduled for February 22th (Fri), the second examination is scheduled on April 5th (Fri), and a third exam over the last weeks of the semester on May 17th (Fri). The dates for the examinations will not be changed. You will be able to access the examination on those dates anytime between 8 am and 7 pm. The examination closes at 8 pm. (This means if you open the examination at 7:30 pm you will only have 30 minutes to complete the examination). Plan accordingly. You will have 75 minutes to complete your examination once you have opened it. All examinations are worth 100 points. Examination format is multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, and short answer.

5. "Malled" Project
There will be one group project regarding the book “Malled: My unintentional career in retail.” Students need to form a group of 4-5 members. Everyone in the group will receive the same grade for the group paper, unless an individual receives a poor evaluation from other group members. Be sure to fill out the form that describes the contribution of each team member to the project. In cases where one of the team members did not contribute their fair share, the grades for the project should be weighted according to the relative contribution of team members.

You should inform me the list of group members by March 29th. Please start working on the project as soon as possible and meet regularly to work on the plan. This project is due by 11 p.m. May 3rd.

6. Forums/Discussions
Post comments and responses to forums/discussions as assigned. Your participation in a forum must be completed by the date/time indicated for you to receive credit. For some of the forums, an individual student response is required. For other forums, a group response is required. In those instances, all participating members of a group will receive the same grade. There are no makeups for forums/discussions.

You are randomly assigned to a discussion group of 4-5 students. You will be asked to respond to discussion topic and questions regarding readings, videos, a case study, or any news event related to course content. There will be a date and time indicated when your post and reply are due. Online group discussion is a graded activity and worth 5 pts.

As an alternative of participation in an online group discussion, an individual activity may be assigned (e.g., video summary, case analysis/reflection). This activity might include reading a short article and then answering discussion questions or summarizing the content of a video. There will be a date and time indicated when your post is due. Individual activities are also worth 5 pts. If you fail to post by the time assigned, your post will be graded and then a deduction of 50% of the total value of the activity will be made for not meeting the deadline.

Work Load
To achieve an average grade in a regular 15 week undergraduate course, the University recommends
spending an average of 3 hours per credit per week on class work. Since this is a 3 credit course, you should plan on allocating approximately 9 hours per week on this course. Three hours of this time will be spent in class, and the remaining 6 hours should be used for reading the assigned material, working on the assignments and the group project, and studying for exams.

Grades

Grades reflect effort and ability. Some students will achieve grades that do not reflect their true ability, because they have not put forth the effort required. Students may not request supplementary assignments for “extra” credit, since offering opportunities to some students that are not available to all would be unfair. Exams may list problems for “extra credit” but these opportunities, if available, will be available to all students. No forced grade distribution or “curve” will be used.

Grades are assigned based on total points earned in the course. The total number of points a student earns is divided by the total number of possible points to arrive at a percentage. See grade assignment below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10) 20pts each</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam (total 3 exams)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Questions (11)</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments (4)</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion/ Activity (12)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Malled&quot; Project</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>820</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Letter Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% and above</td>
<td>Signifies achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% and above</td>
<td>Signifies achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet the course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80% and above</td>
<td>Signifies achievement that meets the course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77% and above</td>
<td>Signifies achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% and above</td>
<td>Indicates coursework was completed but at an achievement level unworthy of credit. Academic dishonesty on any one examination, quiz, or assignment is also sufficient for an F in the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>69% and above</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>67% and above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>66.9% and below</td>
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Overview of a class week
It is your responsibility to keep track of your schedule and complete given assignment on time. The typical pattern for the course is outlined below. You will need to plan your time and remember you are taking an online course to be successful in this course. Please plan to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week on this course.

All course assignments and materials (e.g., readings, videos, chapter questions, discussion forum topics) except the quizzes and examinations are opened every Friday at 10am for the following week. (e.g., open January 25th at 8am for the week of January 28-31).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Fri</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weekly Quiz</strong> due: 8am – 10pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly Chapter Questions due: by 11pm</td>
<td>10am: All materials (except the quiz) are opened for the following week (e.g., readings, videos, chapter questions, group discussion forum topic or individual activity topic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(You can open the quiz anytime between 8 in the morning and 8 in the evening. Once you open a quiz, you will have a limited amount of time to complete it. The material covered in the quiz is the material assigned the previous week of the class.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Weekly Group Discussion Forum - “Post your comment” due: by 11pm</td>
<td>Examination date (Feb 22nd, Apr 12th, May 17th, 8pm-8pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Group Discussion Forum - “Reply to another’s comment” due: by 11pm or Individual Activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Writing assignment due by 11pm (due date will be announced)</td>
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**Resources**

Below are resources you may find helpful throughout the semester.

- Moodle Student Support
- UMN Office of Information Technology (OIT)
- UMN Libraries

**Technical Requirements**

You will need the following software to access course website and materials.

- **Web browser**
  - Firefox (recommended for Moodle)
• Flash Player 8 or higher installed (for viewing videos)

PDF downloads can be viewed using
• Adobe Reader (free)
• Google Docs (free; also available through UMN)

MS Word downloads can be viewed using
• Microsoft Word (purchase; available through UMN)
• Open Office (free)
• Google Docs (free; also available through UMN)