

Social Sciences
Fashion and Creative Expression
HNC30

Course Description:

This course explores what clothing communicates about the wearer and how it becomes a creative and entrepreneurial outlet through the design and production processes. Students will learn, through practical experiences, about the nature of fashion design; the characteristics of fibres and fabrics; the construction, production, and marketing of clothing; and how to plan and care for a wardrobe that is appropriate for an individual's appearance, activities, employment, and lifestyle. Students will develop research skills as they explore the evolution of fashion and its relationship to society, culture, and individual psychology.

Prerequisite: None

Essential Outcomes:

Strand # 1: Functions of Clothing

- Identify the meanings conveyed by particular items of clothing in their function as visual symbols.
- Explain the role that clothing has played in defining different classes or roles within a society, drawing on examples from particular periods of history (e.g. the Middle Ages).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the effects that clothing can have on social interaction.
- Describe different cultures' approaches to clothing, distinguishing functional uses from those associated with pageantry and ceremony, and explain what particular items of clothing communicate (e.g. the veil as a symbol of modesty).
- Identify the criteria used by families in making clothing decisions and purchases by demonstrating an understanding of how various aspects of family life (e.g. budget, values) influence an individual's clothing choices.
- Identify the criteria used in selecting appropriate clothing for particular functions and occasions by demonstrating an understanding of how clothing is selected to suit an individual's personality traits; to project a desired image; to reflect social role, age, and lifestyle; to satisfy the requirements of ceremonies and dress codes; and to reflect or mask self-concept and the need to attract attention or rebel.

- Describe how the choice of clothing and adornments is affected by both personal considerations and external social factors (e.g. the media, peers, status, social role, occupation).

Strand # 2: The Apparel Industry

- Identify and interpret existing legislation pertaining to the textile and apparel industries (e.g. Textile Labelling Act, Canada Standard Sizing).
- Demonstrate an understanding of Canadian and international care labeling by designing appropriate care labels for garments, based on the fibre content.
- Identify consumer agencies that handle complaints about defective goods.
- Identify the factors that contribute to the cost of goods produced in Canada and abroad (e.g., marketing size design, unionization of workforce, government regulation of industry).
- Outline a career path for a fashion – or textile related occupation.
- Evaluate the impact on Canadian society of issues relating to the apparel industry such as the redistribution of jobs brought about by computerization and new technologies, the exploitation of workers both in Canada and abroad, the role of unions in the garment industry, and the hiring of skilled and unskilled immigrant labour.
- Assess the contribution of fashion designers from Canada and around the world.
- Identify countries that are major producers of fibres and fabrics.

Strand # 3: Textiles

- Demonstrate an understanding of the properties and uses of major natural and manufactured fibres.
- Classify the many uses of textiles (e.g. in apparel, in household products, in transportation, in industry).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the properties of the major natural fibres, the major manufactured fibres and other apparel materials and describe their suggested uses.
- Identify methods of caring for and maintaining clothing that limit the extent of fibre deterioration (e.g. sorting laundry, ironing, mending).

- Describe the environmental impact of the use and disposal of care products and identify methods used to reduce damaging effects.

Strand # 4: Design, Technology and Creative Expression

- Demonstrate an understanding of concepts and terms related to the elements of fabric and fashion design (e.g. colour, lines, forms, textures) and the principles of design (e.g. harmony, rhythm, emphasis, proportion, balance).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the elements and principles of design that contribute to creating visual illusion in fashion (e.g. highlighting particular physical attributes).
- Analyze items of apparel to show how the elements and principles of design have been used to make the items marketable.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the capabilities of one or more of the new technologies (e.g. computerized sewing machines).
- Demonstrate an understanding of the creative process as it applies to sewing and crafting by producing articles of clothing or other fashion-related products for various markets.

Strand # 5: Research and Inquiry Skills

- Locate and access primary sources and secondary sources of information relating to fashion
- Demonstrate an ability to organize and interpret information gathered through research, summarizing the main points of articles, interviews and other research materials.
- Effectively communicate the results of their inquiries, using a variety of methods and forms (e.g. graphs, charts, diagrams, oral presentations, written reports, newspaper-style articles, videos).