WS 830-5: Selected Topics Graduate Seminar 1: Fashioning Gender
Mary Lynn Stewart
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Lecture: Tuesdays, 1:30-3:20
Tutorial: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:20
Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30-noon

Course Description:
How do clothes, fabrics, accessories, and adornments signify gender? How do specific items of clothing—suits, dresses, pants, etc., or fabrics—silk, woolen, cotton, etc., or accessories—high heeled shoes, purses, hats—or adornments—lace, braid, etc.—indicate that the wearers are men or women—and usually simultaneously, their social status and less often their ethnicity? How does the line or silhouette of an outfit communicate gender, class and ethnic origin? And how stable are the relationship between this aspect of material culture and gender, class, and ethnicity over cultures or time periods? For instance, why is it acceptably masculine for western churchmen to wear robes? Or, were garments that emphasized curves always and everywhere feminine? Or, why and when did lace become a feminine trimming? Or how did colourful Indian cottons become indicators of respectable middle class masculinity? This course focuses on these types of questions in western (European and North American) fashion and gender systems, with some attention to Eastern attire and the globalization of fashion.

Course Texts:

Sections from on-line books assigned in the undergraduate course, notably:

Goth: Undead Subculture, edited by Lauren Goodlad and Martin Bibby

On Reserve:

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Seminar participation: 30%
Two Oral presentations: 30%
Term paper of 20-25 pages due Dec.1st: 35%
Term paper proposal and bibliography due Oct. 24th: 15%

Please Note:
Meeting times: Students are required to attend the lectures for GDST 302, which are scheduled on Tuesdays, 1:30 to 3:20. After the first lecture, graduate students will meet with the instructor to identify a time on Wednesday or Thursday for a two hour graduate student seminar to discuss the assigned readings.