#ShopApocalypse: Consumer Culture’s Past and the Future of the Planet
History 1710/ Sociology 1714
On-Line Class

Office Hours
Robin Fleming
Email: robin.fleming@bc.edu
Office Hours: via Zoom, Wednesday 12:00–1:30 and by appointment

Juliet Schor
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Office hours: via Zoom, Monday 1–2:30 pm and by appointment

Lab Leader: Jessica Worl
Email: worl@bc.edu
Office hours: via Zoom, Tuesday and Thursday 2:00–4:00, and by appointment

Lectures: MWF 9:00 am Eastern Standard Time, via Zoom
Reflection Sessions: Th 6 pm Eastern Standard Time, via Zoom
Lab Sessions: Information provided in a separate email by Professor Worl

Weekly Schedule of Lectures & Readings

Week 9: Transition to on-line
M 3/16 no class
W 3/18 no class
F 3/20 Alternative Food

[NB: the theme for the following three weeks is “Consumption and Social Inequalities: Fashion, Accumulation and the Buying Impulse”]

Week 10: Fashion’s Past
M 3/23 Fashion’s Past
W 3/25 Fashion’s Past and Fashion’s Present
F 3/27 Status Dynamics in the Contemporary Fashion System
Readings
• Denis Diderot, “Regrets for My Old Dressing Gown,”
https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/diderot/1769/regrets.htm

Week 11: Class, Gender, Race, and Upscaling (March 30)
M 3/30 Clothes and Resistance
W 4/1 Upscaling and the American Wedding
F 4/3 Fashion in the Global Economy

Readings
• Elizabeth L. Cline, Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion (London, 2012), ch. 4.

Week 12: Slow Fashion, Eco-Fashion, Thrift Store Purchasing
(no reflection session Thursday, March 9 (Holy Thursday))
M 4/6 Ecological Impacts of Apparel
W 4/8 Alternative Apparel Practices
F 4/10 No class (Good Friday)

Readings
• Morgan McFall-Johnsen, “The Fashion Industry Emits More Carbon than International Flights and Maritime Shipping Combined. Here are the Biggest Ways it Impacts the Plant,” Business Insider


• DIY reading: find 3 new apparel practices online

Week 13: Global Supply Change and System Crisis: Problems and Solutions

M 4/13    No class (Easter Monday)
W 4/15    Pandemic
F 4/17    Global Supply Chains

Readings

• nine minute NPR interview with historian Frank Snowden on the history of pandemics: [https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/03/09/pandemics-coronavirus-aids-flu](https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/03/09/pandemics-coronavirus-aids-flu)


• Jedediah Britton-Purdy, “The Only Treatment for Coronavirus Is Solidarity,” Jacobin.


Week 14 Ecological Issues, Consumption and Environment

M 4/20    No class (Patriot’s Day)
W 4/22    Recycling’s Past and Present
F 4/24    Climate Change and Consumption

Readings


• Michael Hardy, “The Hellish E-Waste Graveyards where Computers are Mined for Metal,” Wired (January 8, 2018):
https://www.wired.com/story/international-electronic-waste-photographs/
• Brian Resnick, “How Much Plastic is your Washing Machine Sending Out to Sea?,” Vox (January 11, 2019):
https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/its-pretty-staggering-returned-online-purchases-often-sent-to-landfill-environmental-journalist-says-1.5393806?fbclid=IwAR3qoEeckAxrlhUMRkJFRJVMhNEZCp3ByXbxNMV9DkCBAEjy62elkOAvS9aG1
• Daniel Aldana Cohen, “A Green New Deal for Housing,” Jacobin
• Mike Berners-Lee, “1 Million Tons and Beyond,” in idem, How Bad Are Bananas?

Week 15: Concluding Conversation
M 4/27 Confronting #ShopApocalypse
W 4/29 Envisioning a New Consumer Culture

Readings

Reflection Sessions

Thursday, March 19: The Coronavirus Crisis and Consumption

Thursday, March 26: People Like Us: Social Class in America

Thursday, April 2: Apparel and Social Class

Thursday, April 9: Holy Thursday. No reflection session
Thursday, April 16: Discussion with filmmaker of Water is Life

Thursday, April 23: Personal Consumption Meets the Climate Crisis

Thursday, April 30: Project Presentations

Midterm and Final Exam Information Sheet

In light of the shift to an online course we are changing the format of the midterm and the final. They will both be open book, open note take home examinations. That means you can consult readings, lecture notes, and PPT's while you write your exam. As with the in-class essay, you will be asked to sign an honor pledge that you followed the rules for the exam as we set them out.

Midterm
On Friday March 20 you will receive the question from us via email and it will be posted on the GoogleDrive. There will be 2 Identification questions (you define a concept very briefly). These are worth 5 points each. There will be a 500-word essay, worth 90 points. The essay will be like the first in-class essay that you already took. We will ask you to use at least three class readings. You can also draw on other class readings and lectures. The purpose is to get you to synthesize what you are learning. You can talk about the question with others in the class but you cannot use their outlines or pre-written answers. You should not go to the internet for help! This often results in incorrect claims and understandings. Because you have a week does not mean this should take a week. Please treat it like the essay you wrote in class. Choose your authors early. Focus on them, write an outline, and then when you are ready, sit down and write the answer in an hour or two. Please do not go over the word limit.

Final Exam
On Friday May 1 you will receive the exam from us via email and it will be posted on the GoogleDrive. There will be 4 ID questions (worth 5 points each), two 500-word essays, worth 40 points each. The questions will be relevant to material from the full semester. As with the earlier essays, you will be asked to include discussion of multiple class readings. Rules and advice for the earlier essays also pertain.