

Institute for Shipboard Education

Semester at Sea Fall 2005 Voyage

Course: **TA 1241 History of Costume: Clothing and Culture**
Discipline: Theatre
Semester and Year: Fall 2005
Instructor: Annie O. Cleveland
Times: A Schedule 15:45 – 17:00; Room 2
Required reading: *The Visible Self: Global Perspectives on Dress, Culture, and Society* by Joanne B. Eicher
Additional readings will be on reserve in the library or as PDF files

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The way we dress is indicative of not only our individual personality but also the social and cultural context in which we live. In this class the students will study various aspects of body ornamentation to gain an understanding of the historical, artistic, social, and economic aspects of the countries we will be visiting. In addition, the students will be given an opportunity for hands on experience in several methods of textile ornamentation including weaving, beading, dying and embroidery. The students will analyze how these decorative techniques influenced the development of particular types of clothing and dress. The students will use one of these techniques to create a garment or accessory that will communicate individual identity as well as the cultural and social identity of the shipboard community. The students will be graded on periodic exams, participation in class discussion, and the quality and completeness of their documentary notebook.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To gain an understanding of the psychology of clothing and body ornamentation
- To understand the concept of dress as a means of communicating identity and culture.
- To develop a methodology for classifying and articulating various aspects of dress and body ornamentation
- To gain hands on experience in textile and fabric modification
- To identify, interpret, and document the effect of geographic, economic, and historical influences on textiles and clothing.

FIELD COMPONENT:

During the in-port field assignments students will document the methods of dress that they observe in common society as well as the specialized costumes of theatrical events, festivals, rituals, or regional dance. As often as possible it will be important for the students to seek out exhibitions of ethnic clothing and historical artifacts on their own. The general observations will be guided by short outlines that will be developed during class lectures. The students will document their general observations through short descriptions accompanied by photographs, sketches, or in some cases, selected artifacts. The students must complete a minimum of 3 general observation sheets.

In addition to general observations, structured in port activities will be available to observe textile manufacturing processes or attend theatrical events. The students will document these structured activities with a short one to two page response paper. The students will complete a minimum of three structured in port activity papers. These should include one museum visit, one performance, and one clothing or textile manufacturing activity (such as a demonstration of weaving or dying).

The student's photographs, written observations, and selected artifacts will be periodically presented to the class and ultimately compiled in a documentary notebook that will be part of their final evaluation. One in port activity and one observation must be completed before reaching South Africa, the second set must be completed before reaching Vietnam, and the final set due before the final class period.

SUGGESTED FIELD ACTIVITIES:

Venezuela:	Colonia Tovar; Rural Town visit
Brazil:	Service visit to Cortejo Africa Visit; Performance by the Oldum Theatre Group (IND); Afro Brazilian Museum (FDP); Handicraft Museum and Folk Art market (IND); Bahia by night
Kenya:	Bombolulu Handicraft Center; Ngomongo Cultural Center
South Africa:	Tour of Artscape Wardrobe(FDP); Performance at the Cape Town Opera (IND)
India:	Buying a Silk Sari (FDP); Koothu Pattari Theatre Performance (FDP); Making movie Art; Nalli Chinnasami Chetty (IND)
Myanmar	Traditional Handicrafts (FDP); Novication Ceremony; Myanmar Traditional Dance Performance; Tour of the National Museum
Viet Nam:	Water Puppet Performance (FDP); Ben Thanh Market (FDP); Museum of War Remnants
Hong Kong:	Street Markets (FDP); Sung Dynasty Village; Chinese Opera performance (IND)
Japan:	Rural Bunraku (FDP), Kabuki Theatre Performance (IND); Costume Museum (IND); Takarazuka Review

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

The students will be graded on their attendance participation in class discussions and activities, the quality and completeness of their documentary notebook, the depth and diversity of their written reports, and periodic examinations on the readings and material covered in the lectures.

Structured in port activities 25%; Observations 25%; Exams 20%; hands-on technique samples 20%; final garment 10%

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE:

Class 1	Introduction, establishing terminology and methodology Read Chapters 1 and 2 from <i>The Visible Self</i>
Class 2-4	Fibers and weaving techniques; Brazilian feather work Read Latin America section in <i>Ethnic Dress</i> (on reserve in the library)
Class 5-8	Physical appearance, environment and dress; Beading techniques; African designs and motifs; Weaving assignment due Exam I Read Africa section in <i>Ethnic Dress</i> Read Chapters 5 & 6 from <i>The Visible Self</i>
Class 9-10	Art of creating dress; student presentations; Beading assignment due Read Chapter 10 from <i>The Visible Self</i> At least one Field Activity paper and one observation chart should be completed
Class 11-13	Individual Appearance, Conformity, and Individuality; the significance of the sari; dying techniques Read India section in <i>Ethnic Dress</i> AND Chapters 11 & 12 from <i>The Visible Self</i>
Class 14-16	Dress of Southeast Asia; student presentations; Dying assignment due Exam II Read Southeast Asia section in <i>Ethnic Dress</i> At least two Field Activity papers and two observation charts should be completed
Class 17-18	Embroidery techniques; the significance of the Kimono Read Far East section in <i>Ethnic Dress</i>
Class 19-21	Dress and the Arts; Tattoos; Culture and Dress; Embroidery Project due Read Chapter 13 in <i>The Visible Self</i> AND Oceania section in <i>Ethnic Dress</i>
Class 22	Work on final project
Final	PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTARY NOTEBOOK AND INDIVIDUAL DECORATIVE ITEM