

Course Number

ART-HIST 359

Course Title

Fashion, Race, and Power

Quarter/Year

Spring 2021

Day/Time

MW 12-1:50

Instructor

Caticha

Degree/Distro Fulfillment

Post-1800



## Required Textbooks

All readings will be available on canvas.

## Assessments

Short writing assignments, group discussions, and a final research and/or creative project.

## Course Description

This course considers the history of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century fashion through the lens of European colonialism and the Atlantic slave trade. Marie-Antoinette's lavish gowns and towering wigs, the empire-waist dresses of Regency England, and richly printed calico muslins, among other objects, will be understood through the histories of race, colonialism, science, and industry. Who made these garments? What materials did they use and where were these materials from? How was fashion deployed as a tool to perform power, gender, race, and national identity? How has the history of European fashion systematically erased the contributions of black women and women of color? How were the very same styles and fashions worn by white Europeans transformed by free and enslaved black women as a tool of resistance and expression of identity? Throughout this course, we will also engage with contemporary art and popular culture with the goal of understanding the historical legacy and fetishization of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century period dress.

# Contact.

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