Circular Fashion:
Art, Design and Science in a Sustainable Clothing Industry
Course Syllabus

https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WageningenX+FASH01x+1T2020/course/

Topic
The fashion industry has a large influence on the global economy and is more and more known for its social and environmental impact. Everywhere, new sustainable initiatives are arising from recycling, upcycling to creating clothes from compostable materials. Circularity tough, is a complex phenomenon. What will the future bring us? Are we indeed going to decompose our clothes in our own garden?

This online course brings you a comprehensive introduction in circular fashion brought to you by roughly thirty different experts from both academia and practice. You will learn about the versatile task of transitioning towards circular fashion, from the unique collaboration between Wageningen University & Research, ArtEZ University of the Arts and many other experts.

After the course you will know the core concepts and tools to help better understand circular economy in the fashion industry. Some of the topics that are covered focus on understanding the challenge of recycling, design for circularity, alternative textiles through biobased innovation and circular business modelling to help bring innovations to the market.

Learning Outcomes
After successful completion of this course, you learned about:

1. The difference between sustainability & circularity
   • Constructing identity through consumption
   • The difference between eco to ego in fashion
   • Design for circularity
   • Reflect on design thinking

2. Ecosystem circularity
   • Individual agency and organic collectives in fashion
   • Critique small-scale solutions
   • Ecosystems in nature
   • Challenge of governing the transition towards circularity from outsourcing countries

3. Closing the loop in fashion
   • The complexity of textiles
   • Challenges and opportunities of textile recycling
   • Understand the loop of organic- and synthetic textiles
   • Challenge of textile blends
   • Design for recycling and disassembly

4. Biobased innovation and new materialism
   • Learn about future raw materials
• New production processes
• Production capacity, automation and upscaling
• Forecasting biomaterials in fashion
• Debating fast fashion and online marketing

5. Business as crafting value
• Circular business modelling
• Circular business in second hand clothing market
• Learn about a new economic paradigm
• Understand investment and acceleration
• Insight into blockchain
• How blockchain can be used for transparency in the fashion value chain
• Understand fashion from a retail perspective
• E-commerce and circular retail models

Level & Prerequisites
The level of the course is introductory.

Time Commitment
The course consists of five modules with a study load of approximately five hours per module.

Course Structure
Module 1: Translation and interpretations
Introduction to terms and concepts such as sustainability and circularity, understanding the role of eco in fashion. First introduction to design for circularity.

Module 2: Ecosystem circularity
Understanding the role of ecosystems in fashion. How to disrupt current thinking and mindset in the fashion industry and govern this transition.

Module 3: Closing the loop
Introduction to the complexity of materials and recycling of textiles. Understand the importance of design for disassembly and recycling.

Module 4: Biobased innovation & new materialism
Learn about new biobased materials for textiles, understand the change in production processes and reflect on the future influence of biobased materials in fashion.

Module 5: Business as crafting value
Introduction to economic paradigms and new forms of value creation for circularity in the fashion industry. Understand investment and acceleration and circular retail models.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening course (all modules)</td>
<td>21 January 2020</td>
<td>0:00 UTC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due date Fashion Project Assignment (M5)</td>
<td></td>
<td>23:00 UTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due date Participation Grade Assignment (M5)</td>
<td></td>
<td>23:00 UTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due date Peer Reviews Fashion project</td>
<td>12 March 2020</td>
<td>23:00 UTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing course</td>
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1/21/2020  Course Syllabus FASHxx 1T2020
* Please be aware that these are UTC times; check what time this is for your time zone.

**Grading Policy**

For those of you who are taking the course to obtain a Verified Certificate, a minimum grade of 60% is required. The graded exams are only available to learners in the verified track.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>EXAMINATION TYPE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Fashion Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Participation Grade</td>
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**Academic Policy**

We expect each student to complete the module exams on their own, not in collaboration with other students.

**Discussion Forum Participation**

As a learner of this course you are part of a diverse learning community that is at the heart of a meaningful learning experience. The discussion forum is an essential part of this online course. In some assignments you are asked to discuss your findings on the forum with other learners. Moderators and/or instructors are participating in the forum to help facilitate an effective dialogue and support the discussion forum guidelines. If you are new to our online courses, please take a moment to read the discussion guidelines.