

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 though, 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

EVENT	DATE	TIME*
Opening course (all modules)	21 January 2020	0:00 UTC
Due date Fashion Project Assignment (M 5)		23:00 UTC
Due date Participation Grade Assignment (M5)		23:00 UTC
Due date Peer Reviews Fashion project	12 March 2020	23:00 UTC
Closing course		

* 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.

MODULE	EXAMINATION TYPE	EXAMINATION WEIGHT
Module 5	Fashion Project	70%
Module 5	Participation Grade	30%

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](#).