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Revision History

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RCS 327/CLAS 326/GSJ 327/TS 691 Fall 2025 The Body, Dress, and Religion Section 081

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Class Schedule

Course	Meet Days	Meet Time	Location	Instructor(s)
RCS 327 / CLAS 326 / GSJ 327 081 [LEC]	Online			Alicia Batten abatten@uwaterloo.ca
TS 691 081 [RDG]				Alicia Batten

Instructional Team

Use the LEARN Course Discussions forum to communicate with your instructor and classmates. Discussion topics can be accessed in LEARN by clicking **Connect** and then **Discussions** on the course navigation bar in LEARN.

For questions of a personal nature, please email your instructor or your TA:

- Instructor: Alicia Batten
abatten@uwaterloo.ca

Course Description

Calendar Description for RCS 327 / CLAS 326 / GSJ 327

From clothing to hairstyles to tattoos, how we dress can express beliefs, aspects of identity, and power. This course examines dress in a variety of religions from ancient Greece to the modern era. The course includes attention to the look and feel of dress on the body, conflicts that can arise over dress and religion, as well as the role of dress in the formation and maintenance of religious communities. Through reading, discussion, writing, and research on a topic of their choice, students will explore the diversity of ways in which dress is vitally important to both ancient and modern cultures.

RCS 327: [View requirements for RCS 327](#)

CLAS 326: [View requirements for CLAS 326](#)

GSJ 327: [View requirements for GSJ 327](#)

Calendar Description for TS 691

The scope, focus and requirements of a reading course are determined by the professor in consultation with the student. Permission for a reading course must be obtained at the time of registration, prior to the term in which the course will be conducted.

[View requirements for TS 691](#)

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to...

Analyze the significance of the body and dress for creating, maintaining, and challenging religious identities and communities.

Evaluate why dress can cause conflict within religious traditions, and between religious communities and broader societies.
Examine how gender often factors into controversies regarding religion and dress.
Demonstrate academic research on a topic related to dress.
Identify some of the key historical and contextual background for Greek, Roman, Christian, Jewish, and Islamic religious traditions.

Tentative Class Plan

Please see the Course Schedule in LEARN for complete details.

	Module 1: Defining the Terms	Introduce Yourself
		Discussion 1
		Discussion 2
		Research Project Part 1: Undergraduate Academic Integrity Module
	Module 2: Gender, Sex, the Body and Dress	Discussion 3
		Module 2: Required Assignment - Eco and Entwistle
	Module 3: The Graeco-Roman World	Module 3 Quiz
		Choice Assignment
	Module 4: Dress, Worship, and Ritual in the Graeco-Roman World	Module 4 Quiz
		Choice Assignment
	Module 5: Ancient Judaism and Dress	Research Project Part 2: Topic and Annotated Bibliography
		Module 5: Required Assignment - David Kraemer
	Module 6: Early Christianity and Dress	Module 6 Quiz
		Choice Assignment
	Module 7: Islam	Module 7 Quiz
		Choice Assignment
	Module 8: Topics in Medieval and Early Modern Dress	Module 8 Quiz
		Choice Assignment

	Module 9: Cross-dressing Through the Ages	Module 9 Quiz
		Research Project Part 3: Research Outline/Proposal
	Module 10: Modesty	Module 10 Quiz
		Choice Assignment
		Research Project Part 4: Post Research Topic
	Module 11: Adopting or Leaving Behind Religious Dress	Module 11 Quiz
		Choice Assignment
	Module 12: Dress and Human Rights	Module 12 Quiz
		Research Project Part 5: Final Project

Required Materials & Technologies

Note: Any prices provided in course outlines are best estimates based on recent online prices and do not include shipping or taxes. Prices may vary between retailers.

This course has **no additional costs** for students.

Readings

[Course reserves for students](#) are used in this course. Course Reserves can be accessed using the **Library Resources** widget on the **Course Home** page in LEARN.

Technology

LEARN	Course content, assessments	Required	https://learn.uwaterloo.ca	No cost
Bongo	Video assignment (Research Project with video option)	Required	Accessed through LEARN	No cost

Assessments & Activities

Discussions (2x1.5% and	All discussions are due Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at	LEARN	

1x2%)	11:55 PM	Discussions	5%
Required Assignments (2x10%)	Friday, September 19, 2025 at 11:55 PM and Friday, October 10, 2025 at 11:55 PM	LEARN Dropbox	20%
Choice Assignments (2x10%)	Students must complete two choice assignments to be submitted by their respective due date. All dates listed below are Fridays: September 26, 2025 at 11:55 PM; October 3, 24, and 31 at 11:55 PM; November 7, 21, and 28 at 11:55 PM	LEARN Dropbox	20%
Module Quizzes (9x2%)	Module 3: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 12:01- Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 11:55 PM Module 4: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 12:01 - Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 11:55 PM Module 6: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 12:01 - Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 11:55 PM Module 7: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 12:01 - Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 11:55 PM Module 8: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 12:01 - Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 11:55 PM Module 9: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 12:01 - Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 11:55 PM Module 10: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 12:01 - Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 11:55 PM Module 11: Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 12:01 - Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 11:55 PM Module 12: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 12:01 - Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 11:55 PM	LEARN Quiz	18%
Research Project (Part 1: ungraded, Part 2: 5%, Part 3: 10%, Part 4: 2%, Part 5: 20%)	Part 1: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at 11:55 PM Part 2: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 11:55 PM Part 3: Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 11:55 PM	Part 1: LEARN Quiz Part 2: LEARN Dropbox Part 3: LEARN Dropbox Part 4: LEARN	37%

	Part 4: Sunday, November 16, 2025 at 11:55 PM	Discussions	
	Part 5: Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 11:55 PM	Part 5: LEARN Video Assignment	

ate / Missed Content

Please note that all assessments are expected to be submitted on time. Please review the [Academic Regulations](#) section of the Undergraduate Calendar regarding assessments. If you encounter circumstances that you feel may cause you to be late in submitting any assessment, you should contact the instructor immediately, explain the circumstances, and an extension may be negotiated. For circumstances not addressed in the Academic Regulations section of the Undergraduate Calendar, you must be in contact with the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the deadline to request an extension.

Quizzes and Discussions

- If an extension **has** been negotiated:
 - Students are expected to submit their quiz or discussions at the agreed upon time and date and provide any appropriate documentation.
- If an extension **has not** been negotiated:
 - Late submissions will **not** be accepted and will receive a grade of 0.

Assignments and Projects

- If an extension **has** been negotiated:
 - Students are expected to submit their assignment or project at the agreed upon time and date and provide any appropriate documentation.
- If an extension **has not** been negotiated:
 - Late assignments and projects will be accepted **up to 5 days** beyond the deadline at a **penalty of 2% per day**.
 - After the fifth day, late assignments or projects will **not** be accepted and will receive a grade of 0.

Assignment Screening

Text matching software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin and alternatives in this course.

Generative AI

This course includes the independent development and practice of specific skills, such as careful reading, thoughtful and critical reflection, independent research, and writing. Therefore, the use of Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) trained using large language models (LLM) or other methods to produce text, images, music, or code, like Chat GPT, DALL-E, or GitHub CoPilot, **is not permitted** in this class. Unauthorized use in this course, such as running course materials through GenAI or using GenAI to complete a course assessment is considered a violation of [Policy 71](#) (plagiarism or unauthorized aids or assistance). Work produced with the assistance of AI tools does not represent the author's original work and is therefore in violation of the fundamental values of academic integrity including honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and courage ([ICAI](#), n.d.).

You should be prepared to show your work. To demonstrate your learning, you should keep your rough notes, including sources, research notes, brainstorming, drafting notes and prompts. You may be asked to submit these notes along with earlier drafts of your work, either through saved drafts or saved versions of a document. If the use of GenAI is suspected where not permitted, you may be asked to meet with your instructor or TA to provide explanations to support the submitted material as being your original work. If you cannot sufficiently support your work, academic misconduct allegations may be brought to the Associate Dean.

In addition, you should be aware that the legal/copyright status of generative AI inputs and outputs is unclear. [More information is available from the Copyright Advisory Committee.](#)

Students are encouraged to reach out to campus supports if they need help with their coursework including:

- [Student Success Office](#) for help with skills like notetaking and time management
- [Writing and Communication Centre](#) for assignments with writing or presentations
- [AccessAbility Services](#) for documented accommodations
- [Library](#) for research-based assignments

Administrative Policy

Territorial Acknowledgement

The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is co-ordinated within the [Office of Indigenous Relations](#).

Intellectual Property

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo.

Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);

- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed.

On campus supports

For counselling (individual or group) reach out to [Campus Wellness and Counselling Services](#). Counselling Services strives to provide a secure, supportive environment for students of all orientations and backgrounds. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

Other on-campus supports

- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services
- Download the [Regroup Mobile](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information
- [Empower Me](#): to access create an account on the Dialogue mobile app or on the web at www.studentcare.ca/dialogue
- [Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Centre](#) - supports all members of the University of Waterloo campus community who have experienced or been impacted by sexual violence.

Off campus supports

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300
- [St. Mary's Hospital](#) - 519-744-3311
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- 988 Suicide Crisis Helpline: a 24/7 urgent mental health care three-digit helpline
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex, asexual (@SLGBTQIA+) and questioning kids, teens, adults, and their families in Waterloo Region. Phone: 519-884-0000 or e-mail ok2bme@caminowellbeing.ca
- [Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region](#) - offers individual counselling to people of all genders, 16+ who have been sexually assaulted at any point in their lives. As well as short-term support for family members or friends of sexual assault survivors. Also, information and referrals

More information about resources and supports for students can be found online in on the [Faculty of Arts Student Support](#) page.

Accommodating religious and spiritual observances

[Applies only to students taking undergraduate courses]

The University of Waterloo has a duty to [accommodate religious, spiritual, and other creed-based beliefs and practices](#) under the Ontario Human Rights Commission (2015) [Policy on preventing discrimination based on creed](#). Students may seek accommodations for missed course components on religious, spiritual, or other creed grounds. In such cases the students should please consult the instructor within two weeks of the announcement of the due date for which the accommodation is being sought. Students also may request accommodations for temporary absences from classes or other course-related activities to engage in prayer or other daily spiritual practices. Instructors are expected to make reasonable arrangements to respectfully accommodate such requests. The University of Waterloo has a number of [multi-faith spaces](#) that students can use for faith-based practices.

Declaring absences

[Applies only to students taking undergraduate courses]

Please see the [Academic Regulations](#) section of the Undergraduate Calendar for more details. Regardless of the process used to declare an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact their instructor so that the instructor can determine how to accommodate the missed work.

Absences due to religious, creed, and spiritual observances

Beginning Fall 2024, students can submit a [Religious Observance Self-Declaration Form in Quest](#). This form allows the student to register dates of potential conflicts with coursework. Students are expected to record their absence within two weeks of announcement of the due date or scheduled examination date for which academic accommodation is

being sought. Submission through Quest will notify your instructors of your absence.

Absences due to verified illness

For absences due to illness that are not pandemic-related, students need to obtain a [Verification of Illness or Extenuating Circumstances Process](#). Submission through the [Absence Verification System](#), once registered, will notify your instructors of your absence. Students should not submit their VIF or any other medical documentation to your instructors, teaching assistants, or other course personnel. To request and arrange accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor within 48 hours of the date of any missed course component, or as soon as the student is able to given their health condition.

Absences due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., bereavement)

For absences due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., bereavement, serious family illness), students submit [a request for absence due to extenuating circumstances](#) to the [Absence Verification System](#) for processing. Students use the form to submit supporting documentation, which will be considered in a comparable manner to a VIF. Official documentation is necessary before any action can be taken. Examples are plane/train/bus tickets, court documents, police reports, death certificates/obituaries/letters from funeral directors. To request and arrange accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor within 48 hours of the date of any missed course component, or as soon as the student is able to given their circumstances.

Self-declared short-term absences for any reason

Students can [self-declare](#) one short-term absence per term on Quest for any reason. A short-term absence covers two calendar days, and no documentation is required. The student has only one self-declared short-term absence per term and this absence can only be used during the formal lecture period. Self-declared absences cannot be applied to Laboratory (LAB), Clinic (CLN), or Studio (STU) course components. Submitting the self-declaration through Quest will notify your instructors of your absence. It is the student's responsibility to contact their instructors within the first 24 hours after submitting their self-declaration to discuss accommodations for missed course components.

Recording lecture

Use of recording devices during lectures is only allowed with explicit permission of the instructor of the course. If allowed, video recordings may only include images of the instructor and not fellow classmates. Posting of videos or links to the video to any website, including but not limited to social media sites such as: Facebook, Twitter, etc., is strictly prohibited.

University Policy

Mental Health: At the University of Waterloo, we are dedicated to supporting your mental and emotional well-being. Our Counselling Services offer confidential support, including individual counselling, workshops, and crisis intervention.

If you're struggling, please reach out for help at 519-888-4096 or visit [their website](#) for more information.

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities and disabling conditions: The University of Waterloo recognizes its obligations under the Ontario Human Rights Code to accommodate students with known or suspected disabilities and disabling conditions (e.g. medical conditions, injuries, impacts of trauma such as from violence or discrimination) to the point of undue hardship. To support this obligation, [AccessAbility Services](#) (AAS) collaborates with all academic departments and schools to facilitate academic accommodations for students with disabilities and disabling conditions without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you believe you may require academic accommodations (e.g., testing accommodations, classroom accommodations), register with AAS as early in the term as possible by completing the [online application](#). Students already registered with AAS must activate their accommodations for each of their courses at the beginning of each term using AAS' online system. If you require assistance, contact AAS by phone (519-888-4567 ext. 35082), email (access@uwaterloo.ca) or in-person (Needles Hall North, 1st Floor, Room 1401).

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.

For technical support please email OutlineSupport@uwaterloo.ca