

Fashioning the Long Eighteenth Century: Dress and Textiles at The Huntington

Instructor: Dr. Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell

Wednesdays, 10am–12pm

October 15–November 19, 2025



Strickland Lowry, *Young Woman in an Elegant Interior*, c. 1770

Huntington U. is a college-style seminar with no homework or tests. This fall, join fashion historian Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell on a six-week course exploring the dress and textiles of eighteenth-century England, France, and America, as found in artworks in The Huntington's collections. We will trace the history of fashion for men, women, and children from Louis XIV to the Regency period, and study clothing and textile vocabulary, construction techniques, and sustainability. Across six sessions of this seminar, participants will consider:

- How did eighteenth-century artists use (and sometimes manipulate) real garments to create an idealized or allegorical image?
- How does dress express and reflect power, social status, gender, and identity?
- What is the difference between “fashion” and other kinds of dress?

Participants will make frequent trips into the galleries to study fashion and hairstyles in portraits, as well as rare tapestries, carpets, and needlework.

Instructor

Dr. Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell is a fashion historian, curator, and journalist. A former Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow in French Art at The Huntington, she has worked at LACMA and taught at UC Riverside. She is the author of *Fashion Victims: Dress at the Court of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette* (Yale, 2015), *Worn on This Day: The Clothes That Made History* (Running Press, 2019), *The Way We Wed: A Global History of Wedding Fashion* (Running Press, 2020), *Red, White, and Blue on the Runway: The 1968 White House Fashion Show and the Politics of American Style* (Kent State University Press, 2022), *Skirts: Fashioning Modern Femininity in the 20th Century* (St. Martin's Press, 2022), and several exhibition catalogues, as well as writing about fashion, art, and culture for *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *Politico*, *Slate*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. She was a 2020-21 NEH Public Scholar and a 2021-22 USC Libraries Fellow.

Schedule

Week 1, October 15: Getting Dressed

- Welcome and introductions
- Fashion plates and fashion magazines
- Wigs, cosmetics, and undergarments

Week 2, October 22: Womenswear

- Dressing *à la française*
- Dressing *à l'anglaise*
- Dressing for court

Week 3, October 29: Menswear

- City vs. country dress
- Fops and macaronies
- Anglomania

Week 4, November 5: Childrenswear

- The myth of “miniature adults”
- Dressing growing bodies
- Blue boys and pink girls

Week 5, November 12: What to Wear in Your Portrait

- Fashion and its alternatives
- Reynolds vs. Gainsborough
- Van Dyck and “Vandyke dress”

Week 6, November 19: Living With Textiles

- Tapestries, rugs, and upholstery: what’s the difference?
- Making (and remaking) textiles
- The artist’s role in textile design

Recommended Reading

While reading is not required, participants are strongly encouraged to supplement in-class instruction with independent reading according to their individual schedules and interests. Some of the older titles listed are out of print but available used (try Bookfinder.com) or through public libraries. E-books in fashion studies are rare due to the difficulties of reproducing images.

Kimberly Alexander, *Treasures Afoot: Shoe Stories from the Georgian Era* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018)

Robyn Asleson, et al., *A Passion for Performance: Sarah Siddons and Her Portraitists* (Oxford University Press, 1999)

Linda Baumgarten, *What Clothes Reveal: The Language of Clothing in Colonial and Federal America* (Yale University Press, 2002)

Charissa Bremer-David, “Why Boucher? The Enduring Appeal of Boucher Tapestries” in Shelley Bennett and Carolyn Sargentson, eds., *French Art of the Eighteenth Century at The Huntington* (Yale, 2008)

Barbara Burman and Ariane Fennetaux, *The Pocket: A Hidden History of Women’s Lives, 1660-1900* (Yale, 2020)

Anne Buck, *Clothes and the Child: A Handbook of Children's Dress in England, 1500-1900* (Holmes & Meier, 1996)

Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, *Fashion Victims: Dress at the Court of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette* (Yale University Press, 2015 and 2025)

Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, “‘A Van Dyke Habit’: Dressing *Blue Boy*” in Melinda McCurdy et al., *Kenhinde Wiley: A Portrait of a Young Gentleman* (The Huntington Library, 2022)

Kimberly Chrisman-Campbell, “Dressing to impress: The morning *toilette* and the fabrication of femininity,” in Charissa Bremer-David and Peter Bjorn Kerber, eds., *Paris: Life and Luxury in the Eighteenth Century* (J. Paul Getty Museum, 2011)

Hilary Davidson, *A Guide to Regency Dress, from Corsets and Breeches to Bonnets and Muslins* (Yale University Press, 2025)

Hilary Davidson, *Dress in the Age of Jane Austen: Regency Fashion* (Yale University Press, 2019)

Madeleine Delpierre, *Dress in France in the Eighteenth Century* (Yale University Press, 1998)

Richard Thompson Ford, *Dress Codes: How the Laws of Fashion Made History* (Simon & Schuster, 2022)

Elisabeth Gerner, *The Modern Venus: Dress, Underwear and Accessories in the late 18th-Century Atlantic World* (Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2023)

Benedict Leca, ed., *Thomas Gainsborough and the Modern Woman* (Giles, 2010)

Harold Koda, *Dangerous Liaisons: Fashion and Furniture in the Eighteenth Century* (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2007)

Edward Maeder, *An Elegant Art: Fashion & Fantasy in the Eighteenth Century* (Abrams, 1983)

Philip Mansel, *Dressed to Rule: Royal and Court Costume from Louis XIV to Elizabeth II* (Yale University Press, 2005)

Morag Martin, *Selling Beauty: Cosmetics, Commerce, and French Society, 1750-1830* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009)

Matthew McCormack, *Shoes and the Georgian Man* (Bloomsbury Visual Arts, 2025)

Peter McNeil, *Pretty Gentlemen: Macaroni Men and the Eighteenth-Century Fashion World* (Yale, 2018)

Amy Miller, *Dressed to Kill: British Naval Uniform, Masculinity and Contemporary Fashions, 1848-1857* (National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, 2007)

Susan North, *18th-Century Fashion in Detail* (Victoria & Albert Museum, 2018)

Susan North, *Sweet and Clean? Bodies and Clothes in Early Modern England* (Oxford, 2020)

Alden O'Brien, *An Agreeable Tyrant: Fashion After The Revolution* (DAR Museum, 2016)

Aileen Ribeiro, *A Visual History of Costume: The Eighteenth Century* (Batsford, 1983)

Aileen Ribeiro, *The Art of Dress: Fashion in England and France, 1750-1820* (Yale University Press, 1995)

Aileen Ribeiro, *Dress in Eighteenth-Century Europe, 1715-1789* (Yale University Press, 2002)

Aileen Ribeiro, *Fashion in the French Revolution* (Batsford, 1988)

Aileen Ribeiro, "Fashion à l'Antique. Thomas Hope and Regency Dress," in David Watkin and Philip Hewat-Jaboor, eds., *Thomas Hope: Designer and Patron in Regency London* (Yale University Press, 2008)

Daniel Roche, *The Culture of Clothing: Dress and Fashion in the Ancien Régime*, trans. Jean Birrell (Cambridge, 1994)

David H. Solkin, ed., *Fuseli and the Modern Woman: Fashion, Fantasy, Fetishism* (Paul Holberton, 2022)

John Styles, *The Dress of the People: Everyday Fashion in Eighteenth-Century England* (Yale University Press, 2008)