Syllabus – Elective Course

Course title:

Sustainable Fashion Innovation

Credits:

6 ECTS credits

Teaching language:

English

Target students:

Undergraduate students from all academic disciplines are welcome, particularly those interested in sustainability, fashion and design, entrepreneurship, innovation, intercultural collaboration, community engagement, and experiential learning. The course is especially well-suited for students who enjoy creative, collaborative problem-solving and developing prototypes that address real-world fashion challenges through a community-engaged learning experience in Lille. No prior experience in fashion design or technical making is required.

Teacher in charge of the course:

Jennifer Rose Parker, Fashion Designer and owner of French all the Seams.

Yolande Klaassen, founder and owner of Revive Circular Lab.

COURSE PRESENTATION

Prerequisite:

Students undertaking this course should normally have successfully completed at least one semester at university or have equivalent experience. They must have some ability to work both individually and as a group and should be able to communicate easily in English at a standard university level. In other respects, the course is intended to serve a mix of profiles and learning backgrounds for a more diverse international learning experience.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

Understand basic ecological concepts as they relate to environmental science topics.

- Apply design thinking methodologies to identify, analyze, and respond to real-world sustainability challenges within fashion systems.
- Collaborate effectively with peers, residents, and community partners in Lille to develop context-responsive and community-engaged solutions.
- Design and prototype innovative apparel and fashion products, services, or systems that address sustainability challenges at the consumer, industry and policy levels.
- Integrate principles of entrepreneurship, circular design, and sustainability to evaluate the viability and impact of proposed solutions.
- Showcase their proposals through an event/creative presentation including products/solution, business model or market dynamics and policy framework as final exhibition to the entire study-abroad student and faculty.

Content:

Course Description: A market-based immersive course exploring sustainable fashion practices at the consumer, industry, and policy level. Students visit local businesses, learn how to repair and upcycle garments, and expound on existing industry and policy systems to support ongoing sustainability efforts in the Lille community. With access to raw materials and machines, students will work in small groups to showcase a wardrobe, present a new fashion-focused industry business or policy strategy through a final exhibition.

Our mission is to provide ESP-1 students from around the world with a sustainable fashion-focused immersive, community-engaged experience in Lille, France and its surrounding cities that develops globally minded leaders in sustainable fashion innovation. Through collaboration with local communities and interdisciplinary practice, students apply design thinking, entrepreneurship, and prototyping to create meaningful apparel and fashion products, services, and systems that address complex sustainability challenges and prepare them for future academic and professional pathways in the circular fashion economy.

WORKLOAD

French contact hours = 60 minutes (in some countries/institutions, 1 contact hour = 45-50 minutes)

Form	Number of hours	Comments
Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning	39 hours	13 sessions, 3 hours each.
Approximate personal work/homework	15 hours	
Student total workload	**54 hours**	

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Lecture, group discussions, off-site tours, hands-on studio work and final exhibitions.

RESOURCES

All course materials will be supplied in class. References may be made to the following resources:

- ***ADEME*** (https://www.ademe.fr/en/frontpage/)
- ***ReFashion*** (https://pro.refashion.fr/en/)
- ***Fédération de la Mode Circulaire*** (https://federationmodecirculaire.fr/)
- And others including but not limited to: Hello Lille, Fast-Fashion and EU Laws, Tissel, Revive Circular
- Lab, Fashion Green Hub, ESMOD 1841, The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, H&M Foundation

ASSESSMENT

Form	Number	Comments
Individual contributions (20%)	1	On-going class and site-visits participation.
Group participation (20%)	1	Contributions of ideas and involvement.
Final project (60%)	1	Effort, time and quality of final deliverables at the end of the course.

This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (November 2026). Changes may occur. For updated information about course content, please contact us: *lilleprograms@univ-catholille.fr*