When Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden in the book of Genesis, the first thing they did was clothe themselves. The biblical text marks the transformation from the state of nature to the dawn of civilized society with the act of putting on clothing.

When people in 18th-century France demanded a new form of government, men showed their revolt against aristocratic privilege by rejecting the knee-breeches (culottes) worn by noblemen and instead wearing long pants. The revolutionaries were known thereafter as the sans-culottes.

When Clark Kent and Peter Parker become superheroes, we can tell because they have changed their outfits.

In this 2-unit Humanities course, we will delve into the cultural significance of fashion in Europe and America, from the high heels Louis XIV donned as part of his campaign to dominate his unruly court to Dante de Blasio’s afro that helped catapult his father into the NYC mayor’s office. We will study fashion icons as well as the role fashion plays in social movements and identity formation. In short readings and slide lectures we will explore a wide range of approaches to better understand the role fashion plays in our world and our everyday lives.

Students enrolled in the lecture have the option of enrolling in a once-a-week discussion section for 2 additional units, which will also make them eligible for additional GE credit. Students must be enrolled in the HUM 001 lecture to be eligible to take a HUM 001D discussion. 4 discussion sections are on offer for the fall.

HUM 001 CRN 37664 Tues 4:10-6PM (198 Young Hall)

HUM 001D – discussion sections
  CRN 37665 Mon 2:10-4 (151 Olson Hall)
  CRN 37666 Wed 2:10-4 (151 Olson Hall)
  CRN 37667 Thurs 2:10-4 (129 Wellman)
  CRN 37668 Friday 10-11:50 (110 Hunt Hall)

GE credit:
  HUM 1—Arts & Humanities for GE2 and 3
  HUM 1D—Arts & Humanities and Writing Experience for GE2 and 3