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 from the high heels Louis XIV donned as part of his campaign to dominate his unruly court to the white suits women lawmakers wear to claim the legacy of suffragists. 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 and additional GE credit (Writing).

Students must be enrolled in the HUM 001 Lecture to be eligible to take a HUM 001D.

HUM 001  CRN 52956  Tues 3:10-5PM

HUM 001D – discussion sections
CRN 52957  Mon 2:10-4
CRN 52958  Wed 4:10-6
CRN 52959  Thurs 2:10-4
CRN 52960  Friday 10-11:50

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