Course: Contemporary Issues in the Fashion Industry   **Spring 2022** CUNY/NYC College of Technology
Professor: Dr. Nazanin Munroe
Course/Section: BUF 4700-OL70   **Asynchronous ONLINE**   3 Credits
Contact: nmunroe@citytech.cuny.edu   *Please allow 24 hours for email response*
Office location: A-611Q
Office hours: VIRTUAL Wednesdays 12.30-2.30 pm *No in-person office hours this semester*
Zoom video/phone conference by appointment or Email

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Catalog: A senior-level seminar course. Students investigate a specialized topic or topics related to the fashion industry. Research, discussion, and weekly readings culminate in a final paper and presentation. Themes vary each semester.

Spring 2022: The objective of the course is to examine current practices in the apparel industry, with a close look at developments in textiles and manufacturing as an integral aspect of the industry's trajectory.

Topics are divided into 3 modules + final project, including but not limited to the following:

- **MODULE 1:** Ethics and Fair trade in apparel manufacturing

- **MODULE 2:** Sustainable apparel companies and sustainable alternatives (biosynthetics) in fashion

- **MODULE 3:** Smart textiles as a rapidly developing sector in the apparel industry that overlaps with science and technology

- **FINAL MODULE:** You will create your own business plan for an original apparel company or product that addresses two or more of the issues covered in the class, based on original research

COURSE PRE- or COREQUISITE (S) One BUF 4000-level course

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Outcome	Assessment
Identify and explain current trends, and developments within the specialized topic	Online discussions, assignments, papers & presentation
Communicate comprehensively about the specialized fashion topic.	Online discussion, final paper & oral presentation
Recognize how this particular topic impacts the fashion business.	Online discussion, assignments, term paper & presentations
Predict future possible directions of the topic area based on acquired knowledge.	Online discussion, term paper & oral presentation
Write a major research paper on a selected topic	Final Paper & Presentation
Gain experience in a seminar, graduate level style course	Online discussions & course assignments

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

Outcome	Assessment
Demonstrate intellectual honesty and personal responsibility	Online discussions, written demeanor, term paper & presentations

Gather, interpret, evaluate, and apply information discerningly from a variety of sources	Final paper & presentation

NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOK This course is Zero Textbook Cost; in lieu of a textbook, we will utilize readings available online: Open Educational Resources/OERs. These include articles, videos, and web sites that you can easily access via laptop, tablet or mobile device. See the following section "Open Lab Web Site" for information on accessing the materials. Recommendations for further reading for each major topic in the course are posted on Black board as a separate document under "Syllabus & Course Materials."

Technology Prerequisites: This is a fully online asynchronous course. In order to participate, you will need access to some basic technology. Please see below.

1.   **Email** You will need access to your City Tech email account and should be comfortable using it. The college provides an email account to all students. This will be the account at which you will receive information, such as announcements, about the course.

2.   **Tech Specs** You need access to a computer with at least 256 MB RAM and an Internet connection via a 56k modem or, ideally, the college T1 line. You should have access to and be able to use the Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Internet Explorer browsers (Chrome, Firefox and Safari preferred). A complete list of supported versions is found here: https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support

3.   **Blackboard** As a starting point, you should be comfortable using Blackboard for discussions and uploading homework. We will also work on blogs and wikis; how to locate and use these tools will be explained for students who are not familiar with them. A Blackboard tutorial for students can be downloaded here: http://websupport1.citytech.cuny.edu/student_pdf/bb/Student-BB_9.pdf

4.   **Workshops** If you'd like to receive additional training in Blackboard, Student training is also available in the open student lab in the General Building, sixth floor, room G600. The phone number for the lab is (718) 254-8565 and the email is itec@citytech.cuny.edu. Student workshops are listed here: http://websupport1.citytech.cuny.edu/workshops.html#student

BLACKBOARD Blackboard will be our home base for this course. You will submit assignments through Blackboard and post DB threads in the designated content area ("Discussion").

OPEN LAB WEB SITE There is a link directly to the BUF 4700 Open Lab site I created for this course in Blackboard. We will be using the City Tech Open Lab to access course materials, module readings and to post blogs. If you are not a current member of Open Lab, you need to **create a profile and join the course** using your college credentials (it's free and open to City Tech students).

Please go through the materials for each module sequentially in accordance with course schedule. The Open Lab web site has a separate page for each module with readings listed sequentially. Since we are working with current events, additional readings may be assigned at the last minute—module pages will be updated accordingly, and also announced through Blackboard.

Open Lab site home: https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/munroebuf4700/
BUF 4700 Module Readings: https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/munroebuf4700/readings/
Open Lab Blog: Student materials posted on the Open Lab, such as blogs or other posts, will be on a password-protected page for privacy. The password this semester is: **BUF4700sp22**

MIDTERM REPORTS All students will be notified through their CUNY- NYC College of Technology e-mail accounts and/or Announcement on Blackboard about their progress in this course by the mid-semester point. Mid-term grades are assessed as follows, per recommendation by the Office of the Provost:
          P-Passing, **BL**-Borderline, **U**-Unsatisfactory, **SA**-Stopped Attending.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING This course is a senior level seminar course, with topics determined by the professor prior to the scheduling of each section. This includes written components, research presentations, and class participation in online discussion boards or other formats. The professor for each section of this course will determine the weighting of the individual assignments. However, they must ensure that all Student Learning Outcomes are met.

GRADING

There are no exams or quizzes in this course; however, your grade will depend heavily on written analyses in discussion boards, blogs, papers and assignments. **All Modules are weighed equally at 25%** of the final course grade; additional breakdown for each assignment is indicated below, with details for each assignment indicated in the rubric.

> **Module 1: Fair Trade & Ethics, Sustainability………………..(25%)**
> Discussion Board #1:   10%
> Sweatshop Analysis: 15%
> **Module 2: Sustainable Alternatives……………………………(25%)**
> Blog & comments: 10%
> Biosynthetic Paper: 15%
> **Module 3: Smart Textiles & Future Fashion…………………..(25%)**
> Smart Textile Examples: 15%
> Group Discussion Board: 10%
> **Module 4: Business Idea……………………………………………(25%)**
> Business Idea: 5%
> Presentation: 5%
> Research Paper: 15%

Grading System: All grades will be based in proportion to the following scale: A = 93 - 100 A- = 90 - 92 B+ = 87 - 89 B = 83 - 86 B- = 80 - 82 C+ = 77 - 79 C = 70 - 76 D = 60 - 69 F = 59 and below. If a final grade is not a whole number, any decimal greater than .5 will be rounded up (e.g. 82.51 becomes an 83). Each assignment includes a clear rubric.

HOMEWORK All assignments will be posted and submitted through Blackboard. Homework is expected to be turned in on time and fully completed. Partial homework will be reflected in the grade for the assignment. Late homework defaults to a 0 for that assignment and is only accepted on an individual basis on the approval of the instructor, accompanied by documentation that demonstrates an emergency situation approved by the college. If you have questions or issues with the homework, you are responsible for contacting the instructor during office hours, or via email at least 24 hours before the due date for assistance. If your homework will be late due to a personal issue or other emergency, you MUST email the professor 24 hours or as soon as possible, BEFORE the assignment is due. *See section on Discussion Boards in this syllabus for specifics on grading for those assignments.*

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is an online course, so attendance is documented by your participation online in Blackboard discussion boards, Open lab posts, and other communication tools. All due dates, including time of day, are noted on the course schedule. All submitted assignments are time/date stamped through Blackboard or Open Lab. Late posts are counted as a late arrival; absence of online participation is counted as an absence.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT
City Tech is committed to supporting the educational goals of enrolled students with disabilities in the areas of enrollment, academic advisement, tutoring, assistive technologies, and testing accommodations. If you have or think you may have a disability, you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments as provided under applicable federal, state, and/or city laws. You may also request services for temporary conditions or medical issues under certain circumstances. If you have questions about your eligibility and/or would like to seek accommodation services and/or academic adjustments, please contact:

Student Accessibility Center (SAC) at **300 Jay Street,** room **L-237;** telephone:**718-260-5143**
WEB: http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/accessibility/

COMPLIANCE WITH AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT
Any student who seeks a reasonable accommodation of a disability with respect to an academic matter should obtain a CUNY Citytech College Request for Accommodation of Disability Form, as soon as the need becomes apparent, from one of the ADA Coordinators. The ADA Coordinators can be reached in person or by phone at:
Room A-237: Student Support Services.   Phone # 1.718. 260.5143   Fax: # 1.718. 254-8539

NYCCT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY
Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.

SAFEASSIGN AS A LEARNING TOOL
SafeAssign helps prevent plagiarism by providing both the student and the professor a feedback report that compares any student work submitted through the software with a comprehensive database of books, journals, websites and papers written by other students. The assignments in this course will use Blackboard's **SafeAssign** software to help students improve their skill at paraphrasing statements contained in research on a topic and to help increase awareness of the proper use of citation when a student writes a paper using ideas or statements taken from a research source. All submissions will be added to the SafeAssign database.

Prior to submitting a final draft of an assignment, students will have the opportunity to submit drafts of that assignment to **SafeAssign** in order to get sufficient feedback from **SafeAssign** reports to help minimize the risk of plagiarism. If the assignment continues to have evidence of plagiarism in the final draft of the assignment, the professor will file a report to the Department Chair documenting the use of the paper as an action of academic dishonesty. Please note that by submitting a paper to **SafeAssign**, that paper will become source material included in the SafeAssign database.

ACADEMIC WRITING CENTER (AG-18)
Available for any student needing help will find an array of services such as: study skills training; support for reading and writing skills; and assistance with mathematics, oral communication and computer applications. Both peer and faculty tutors are available for assistance. The Academic Support Center offers academic assistance to all students through the use of services including tutoring, workshops and

access to computer-based programs. For further information, please visit the Academic Support Center on campus and on Blackboard.

CREDIT HOUR ASSIGNMENT POLICY
Course work performed outside of the classroom (such as reading, studying, writing papers, doing projects or receiving tutoring) is critical to academic success. While the time requirements for individual students may vary somewhat, a general rule of thumb is that students should spend about two hours outside the classroom for every credit hour. Please plan accordingly.

E-PORTFOLIOS/OPEN LAB In addition to using Open Lab for our course, CUNY-College of Technology asks all students to participate in building a program-long **ePortfolio** of the work that they complete while taking classes at the College. Through a process of *collect, select, reflect, and connect,* students learn to judge the quality of their own work, speak about their learning, and present evidence of their current knowledge and skills. College faculty will assist with this process by recommending that you store at least one significant piece of work from each course in your Blackboard content collection. For more information, see the **"ePortfolios at CUNY-College Technology" organization** in Blackboard.

For sample Open Lab portfolios, see: https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/portfolios/

DISCUSSION BOARDS
Discussion Boards are an integral aspect of online learning, as they represent conversations that would traditionally take place in the classroom. *Plan to visit the discussion board several times per week to respond to peer postings in a timely manner.* You will find the discussion board on the left-hand side navigation of any Blackboard page under "Discussions." (See following page for rubric)

Group Discussion Boards: When you work in groups, check the left navigation pane under "My Groups." A group leader will be designated and you can join any group. Group work is graded based on individual as well as group performance, based on the assignment.

Discussion Board Rubric: Total 100 points/100% (see below for explanations of each category)

Criteria Total: 100 Points/100%	Excellent (A)	Good (B)	Average (C)	Poor (D)	Insufficient/not completed (F)
Relevance: (40%)	35 – 40 points	32 – 34 points	28 – 31 points	24 – 27 points	0 – 23 points
Substance: (20%)	17.5 – 20 points	16 – 17 points	14 – 15.5 points	12 – 13.5 points	0 – 11.5 points
Netiquette (20%)	17.5 – 20 points	16 – 17 points	14 – 15.5 points	12 – 13.5 points	0 – 11.5 points
Timeliness and word count (20%)	17.5 – 20 points	16 – 17 points	14 – 15.5 points	12 – 13.5 points	0 – 11.5 points

Relevance: Your posts should reply directly to the discussion board question, or directly to another student's posting. Off-topic comments will not count. More than one off-topic comment will deduct points from your total grade. <u>You MUST reply to your peers to complete the assignment</u>--incomplete submissions will be reflected in the grade. See "Timeliness" section for more information on creating a post and replying to peers.

Substance: Please use complete sentences when posting. Simple comments like "I agree," "Yes" or "No" do not count towards participation. Be thoughtful, and don't repeat what's already been posted (especially for latecomers: please be sure to read all the posts before adding your own). All posts must be directly added to Blackboard as text; uploaded attachments will NOT count towards your posting. Links may be added.

Netiquette: Comments must be well written, correct in grammar/spelling, and professional and polite in tone. NO profanities, hate speech, impolite, or inappropriate comments will be tolerated. Using ALL CAPS is indicative of a raised voice/yelling in netiquette terms, so please avoid this at all times. Students who persist in inappropriate comments after one warning from the instructor will fail that assignment.

Timeliness: Postings must be made in a timely manner, relative to the due date of the assignment. For a discussion question that is posted for one week, postings within 1-2 days constitute "A" work, 3-4 days "B" work, 5-6 days "C" work, due date/last minute postings are "D" work. Timeliness may vary per assignment. You are expected to reply to peer postings within your thread in a timely manner, i.e. within 24 hours.

Recommended word count for posts: minimum 50 words, max 250 words per individual posting. Minimum one posting and two replies; you can post up to 5 times in one thread. If you don't post anything by the assignment due date/time, you receive a 0.

LINK TO ALL READINGS: https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/munroebuf4700/readings/
LINK TO SCHEDULE: https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/munroebuf4700/schedule/

All readings are on Open Lab web site, and divided into 3 instructional modules: Fair Trade/Ethics, Sustainability, and Smart textiles; the 4th module is to help you with your final materials. Homework Assignments (HW) are listed on the site, but to access rubrics and submit them, you'll find these on Blackboard in the section for the related module. Additional readings and/or assignments may be added at the discretion of the professor, and will be announced via Blackboard.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE   SPRING 2022

Please check due dates carefully. Each week's readings begins on Mondays, as listed. Assignments are generally due by **end of day Mondays** except where noted otherwise. In the event of college closures due to holidays, these due dates are pushed to the following day. Homework **(HW)** due dates listed in **bold.**

PLEASE NOTE: The final assignment includes BOTH paper & narrated presentation; rough draft of paper can be submitted via Blackboard for feedback form the Professor BEFORE submitting final versions (see rough draft dates where indicated).
NOTE: This schedule is subject to change based on the discretion of the professor.

Week/Topic	Assigned Reading & Homework
WEEK 1: 1/31/22 **Module 1:** Introduction to Ethics/Fair trade in Apparel	**READ**: Mod 1, Week 1: Sweatshop & Labor history **Discussion Board** topic: Garment Workers in LA in CBS News (Sept. 20, 2021) **HW:** Respond to article on BB Discussion Board **DUE: Post thread + 2 peer replies due Mon. 2/7/22 by end of day**
WEEK 2: 2/7/22 Sustainable Practices in Fashion	**READ:** Mod 1, Week 2: Labor laws & corporate responsibility

WEEK 3: 2/14/22	**HW:** Write an essay comparing sweatshop practices then & now **DUE: Mon. 2/21/22 by end of day**
WEEK 4: 2/21/22 **Module 2:** Sustainable alternatives in Fashion Review articles, choose blog topic	**READ** Mod 2, Week 4: Intro to Sustainable Fashion NY Times article and **REVIEW** The Good Trade **BLOG:** Choose one company from and blog about their sustainable business model on Open Lab **DUE: Mon. 2/28/22 by 10 pm**
WEEK 5: 2/28/22 **Blog due, with Peer Comments**	**Complete responses to peer blogs** (minimum 3 comments) **DUE: Mon. 3/7/22 by end of day**
WEEK 6: 3/7/22 Biosynthetic production- Dyes	**REVIEW:** Module 2, Week 6: Take notes on materials and techniques used in sustainable dye and textile production
WEEK 7: 3/14/22 Biosynthetic production- Fabrics	**REVIEW:** web sites listed in Module 2, Week 7 Take notes on materials and techniques used in sustainable dye and textile production
WEEK 8: 3/21/22	**HW:** Write a paper analyzing two different types of biosynthetic textile production or dye processes **DUE: Mon. 3/28/22 by end of day**
WEEK 9: 3/28/22 **Module 3:** Intro to Smart Textiles	**REVIEW:** Mod 3, Week 10: Introduction to Smart Textiles Review Kettley on BB and the sites/products listed in Module 3
WEEK 10: 4/4/22	**HW:** Analyze types of e-textiles (passive, active and very active) using examples from Module 3 **DUE: Mon. 4/11/22 by end of day**
WEEK 11: 4/11/22	**REVIEW:** Mod 3, Week 11: Fashion Designers using technology **Small Group discussion board:** Talk about the nature of Digital and Virtual Couture v. traditional fashion **DUE Mon. 4/25/22 by end of day**
WEEK 12: 4/25/22 **Module 4:** Business idea	Module 4: Pitch your idea **HW:** Develop and Submit **Business Idea pitch** **DUE: Mon. 5/2/22 by end of day**
WEEK 13: 5/2/22	**HW:** Create paper outline and begin rough draft *OPTIONAL: Outline/Rough drafts accepted for feedback up to 5/9/22 end of day*
WEEK 14: 5/9/22	**HW:** Put together your PowerPoint presentation for investors
WEEK 15: 5/16/22	**Complete FINAL PAPER and PRESENTATION** **DUE: FRIDAY 5/20/22 on Blackboard by end of day**