

DRAM 080.001
Fall 2018

Project #1: Wedding Traditions across Cultures

There are numerous symbols that can reveal someone's wedding status -- single, engaged, married, etc. – if the observer understands the language of dress being spoken by the wearer. There is also a wide assortment of forms of dress worn for weddings. Each of these symbols vary during different historical eras and across cultures. According to the editors of *Wedding Dress Across Cultures*, western culture has a “continuing obsession with the white wedding dress (p. 3).”

Students, working in groups of three or four, will choose two forms of wedding / marriage apparel and make an oral and written presentation about them; one of the forms must be the white wedding dress (making the concept of compare/contrast central to the presentation). Foster and Johnson write in the introduction to the essays that comprise their book that “Although the essays discuss a variety of cultural uses and meaning for bridalwear, they also demonstrate intriguing commonalities (p. 2)”. Students are not limited to the cultures and historical eras in the book. The topic chosen by each group must be approved in advance.

During 15-20 minute class period each group will:

- Document the chosen forms through illustrations (paying attention to sources);
- Define the chosen forms through careful description;
- Relate the chosen forms to the general manner of dress in the culture and time in which they occur;
- Explain the rationale behind the chosen forms, including symbolism of color and shape;
- Focus on the manner of dress worn by women while at the same time including that worn by men (note that if a culture and era is chosen in which the focus is on men, then this premise would be reversed);
- And, respond to questions from class members.

Each group will also submit a formal paper version of all the above materials to Professor Owen on the date of their class presentation. The paper version must be organized in a coherent manner, prepared following MLA style guidelines, and written in the objective third person. In this context “written” does not mean written by hand.

Each member of the group will also assess the process of creating the presentation and the participation of the other members of their group (provided anonymously to Professor Owen). Each member of the group will receive the same grade for the presentation but the peer assessment will be factored into the class participation grade. The project is worth 20% of the course grade.

Room 24 Cobb has excellent projection equipment and internet access, a document camera, and USB ports.