Italian identity, culture, and economy remain are connected to fashion as both an institution and industry. Well before Italy’s belated unification in 1861, fashion played a key role in the construction of national style and courtly life from the Middle Ages and Renaissance to the twentieth-century design houses that reshaped not only commercial and aesthetic trends, but solidified Italy’s association with post-war design culture more broadly. This course explores the development of Italian fashion from its roots in Medieval Communes to the dynamics of the modernity and the post-modernity of the 19th and 20th centuries, concluding with a close look at contemporary fashion as a creative force of socio-cultural change.

Note: For the first week, half the seats will be reserved for Italian Studies majors and minors. Afterwards, remaining seats will open to all other majors.

**This is a 2 credit course**