

Course Title

Fashion Major – Beginner Level II: Sustainable Design & Ethics



INNOVATIVE ARTS ACADEMY

Course Overview

Students explore sustainable fashion concepts and ethics, learning the environmental and social impact of design choices. Skills developed include sustainable fiber analysis, upcycling, intermediate sewing, draping, and sustainable branding. The course culminates in a capstone collection showcasing sustainable practices.

Unit Title

UNIT 1 – Introduction to Sustainable Fashion & Ethics

Time Frame 3 Weeks

Unit Title

UNIT 2 – Textiles & Sustainable Fibers

Time Frame 4 Weeks

Unit Title

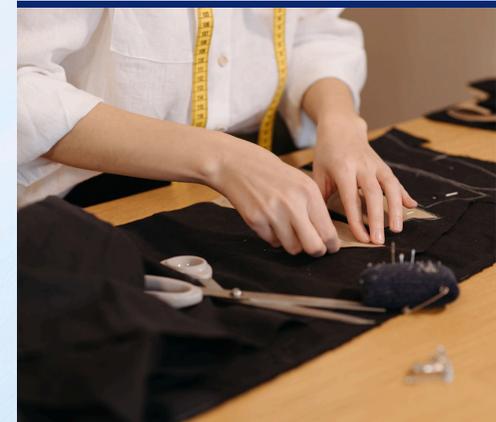
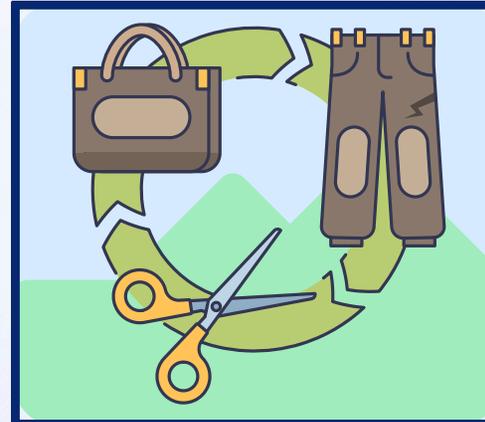
UNIT 3 – Upcycling & Creative Reuse

Time Frame 5 Weeks

Unit Title

UNIT 4 – Intermediate Sewing & Stitch Library Expansion

Time Frame 5 Weeks



Focus of the Unit

Students explore environmental and social issues in fashion, examining sustainability principles and ethical decision-making in design.

Focus of the Unit

Students examine sustainable fibers and the environmental implications of textile production.

Focus of the Unit

Students learn the creative and technical processes for upcycling existing garments into new designs.

Focus of the Unit

Students develop intermediate sewing skills and expand their stitch library with new techniques for garment finishing.

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Students explore sustainable fashion concepts and ethics, learning the environmental and social impact of design choices. Skills developed include sustainable fiber analysis, upcycling, intermediate sewing, draping, and sustainable branding. The course culminates in a capstone collection showcasing sustainable practices.

Unit Title

UNIT 5 – Draping & Pattern Manipulation

Time Frame

5 Weeks



Unit Title

UNIT 6 – Sustainable Production & Manufacturing

Time Frame

3 Weeks



Unit Title

UNIT 7 – Marketing, Branding & Sustainable Consumerism

Time Frame

3 Weeks



Unit Title

UNIT 8 – Sustainable Collection Capstone Project

Time Frame

6 Weeks



Focus of the Unit

Students explore draping on dress forms and learn techniques to manipulate patterns for custom designs.

Focus of the Unit

Students examine how fashion products move from concept to consumer, exploring sustainable practices in manufacturing and supply chains.

Focus of the Unit

Students explore sustainable fashion branding and how to market products ethically to consumers.

Focus of the Unit

Students synthesize their skills to create a mini collection focused on sustainability, including design, production, and marketing.

Unit Title	UNIT 1 – Introduction to Sustainable Fashion & Ethics
Time Frame	3 Weeks



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	Essential Question(s)
	What does “sustainable fashion” really mean? How do my design choices affect people and the planet?

	Focus of the Unit
	Students explore environmental and social issues in fashion, examining sustainability principles and ethical decision-making in design.

Standards	<p>PA Arts & Humanities: 9.2.12.C (Critical cultural context), 9.4.12.B (Ethical issues in art)</p> <p>National Core Arts: VA:Re9.1.1 (Apply criteria to evaluate art)</p> <p>Family & Consumer Sciences: 16.2.1 (Analyze ethical considerations in textiles and apparel)</p>
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Learning Targets
I can define sustainability and ethics in the context of fashion.

Learning Targets
I can identify ways the fashion industry contributes to environmental and social issues.

Learning Targets
I can analyze case studies of sustainable fashion brands

Learning Targets



Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fashionopolis” by Dana Thomas, Fashion Revolution resources, TED Talks on sustainable fashion
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Unit Title	UNIT 2 – Textiles & Sustainable Fibers
Time Frame	4 Weeks



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	Essential Question(s)
	What fibers are most sustainable, and why? How does textile production affect the environment?

	Focus of the Unit
	Students examine sustainable fibers and the environmental implications of textile production.

Standards	<p>PA Arts & Humanities: 9.1.12.A (Production techniques) National Core Arts: VA:Cr1.1.1 (Develop art ideas) Family & Consumer Sciences: 16.3.1 (Evaluate fibers, textiles)</p>	Core: Science (chemistry of textiles), Math (measurements for fabric yield)
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Learning Targets
I can distinguish between natural, synthetic, and sustainable fibers.

Learning Targets
I can evaluate the lifecycle of different textiles.

Learning Targets
I can source eco-friendly fabric options for design projects

Learning Targets



Resources	Swatch books, Fabric sustainability guides (Textile Exchange), Fiber Fact Sheets
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Unit Title	UNIT 3 – Upcycling & Creative Reuse
Time Frame	5 Weeks



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	Essential Question(s)
	How does upcycling differ from recycling? What skills are needed to transform old clothes into new fashion?

	Focus of the Unit
	Students learn the creative and technical processes for upcycling existing garments into new designs.

Standards	PA Arts & Humanities: 9.1.12.B (Art processes), 9.4.12.C (Social issues in art) National Core Arts: VA:Cr2.1.1 (Organize and develop ideas)
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Standards	Family & Consumer Sciences: 16.4.2 (Use textiles creatively) Core: Math (pattern measurements), Science (material properties)
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Learning Targets
I can plan a design using recycled garments

Learning Targets
I can deconstruct and reconstruct clothing for creative reuse.

Learning Targets
I can explain the environmental benefits of upcycling.

Learning Targets



Resources	YouTube tutorials on upcycling, Examples from designers like Marine Serre
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Unit Title	UNIT 4 – Intermediate Sewing & Stitch Library Expansion
Time Frame	5 Weeks



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	Essential Question(s)
	Why are certain stitches used for specific fabrics? How does sewing technique impact garment longevity?

	Focus of the Unit
	Students develop intermediate sewing skills and expand their stitch library with new techniques for garment finishing.

Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Arts & Humanities: 9.1.12.C (Art production tools) • National Core Arts: VA:Cr3.1.I (Refine art skills) 	Family & Consumer Sciences: 16.4.4 (Demonstrate advanced sewing) Core: Math (precision measurements), Science (fabric properties)
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Learning Targets
I can perform intermediate sewing techniques (e.g., French seams, bias binding).

Learning Targets
I can maintain a stitch library with accurate samples.

Learning Targets
I can troubleshoot sewing problems independently.

Learning Targets



Resources	Sewing reference books Online sewing tutorials (e.g. Threads Magazine)
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Unit Title	UNIT 5 – Draping & Pattern Manipulation
Time Frame	5 Weeks



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	Essential Question(s)
	How does draping differ from flat pattern drafting? Why is pattern manipulation crucial for original designs?

	Focus of the Unit
	Students explore draping on dress forms and learn techniques to manipulate patterns for custom designs.

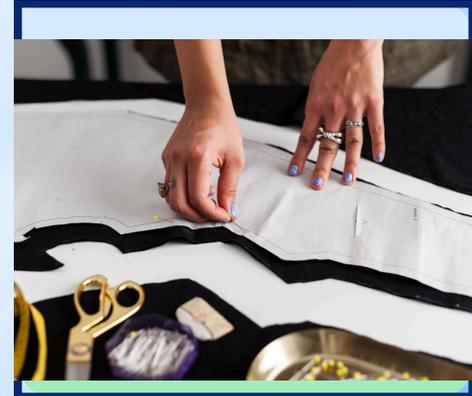
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Arts & Humanities: 9.1.12.A (Technical production) • National Core Arts: VA:Cr2.1.I (Develop art) 	Family & Consumer Sciences: 16.3.2 (Pattern design) Core: Math (geometry in pattern work), Science (material behavior)
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Learning Targets
I can drape basic bodice and skirt designs.

Learning Targets
I can alter commercial patterns for custom fits.

Learning Targets
I can translate draped designs into flat patterns.

Learning Targets



Resources	Pattern-making books (e.g. “Patternmaking for Fashion Design”) Dress forms
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Unit Title	UNIT 6 – Sustainable Production & Manufacturing
Time Frame	3 Weeks



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	Essential Question(s)
	What happens between design and store shelves? How can mass production be sustainable?

	Focus of the Unit
	Students examine how fashion products move from concept to consumer, exploring sustainable practices in manufacturing and supply chains.

Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Arts & Humanities: 9.2.12.C (Cultural context) • National Core Arts: VA:Re7.2.1 (Analyze context)
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<p>Family & Consumer Sciences: 16.2.2 (Evaluate global issues in fashion) Core: Social Studies (economics), Science (industrial processes)</p>
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Learning Targets
I can trace the journey of a garment from design to retail.

Learning Targets
I can explain sustainable manufacturing processes.

Learning Targets
I can evaluate companies based on sustainability practices.

Learning Targets



Resources	Documentary “The True Cost” Fashion Transparency Index
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Unit Title	UNIT 7 – Marketing, Branding & Sustainable Consumerism
Time Frame	3 Weeks



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	Essential Question(s)
	How can brands avoid greenwashing? What makes consumers trust a sustainable brand?

	Focus of the Unit
	Students explore sustainable fashion branding and how to market products ethically to consumers.

Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Arts & Humanities: 9.4.12.B (Ethical issues) • National Core Arts: VA:Pr6.1.I (Convey meaning through presentation)
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<p>Family & Consumer Sciences: 16.5.1 (Marketing principles in fashion) Core: English Language Arts (persuasive writing), Social Studies (consumer behavior)</p>
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Learning Targets
I can identify sustainable marketing techniques.

Learning Targets
I can create branding that aligns with sustainable values.

Learning Targets
I can analyze advertising for greenwashing.

Learning Targets



Resources	Sustainable brand case studies Marketing textbooks
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Unit Title	UNIT 8 – Sustainable Collection Capstone Project
Time Frame	6 Weeks



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	Essential Question(s)
	How can my designs promote sustainability? How do collections reflect a designer’s values?

	Focus of the Unit
	Students synthesize their skills to create a mini collection focused on sustainability, including design, production, and marketing.

Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Arts & Humanities: 9.1.12.A, 9.1.12.B (Production and performance) • National Core Arts: VA:Cr3.1.I (Refine and complete artworks)
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<p>Family & Consumer Sciences: 16.5.2 (Fashion presentation skills) Core: English (presentations), Math (budgeting)</p>

Learning Targets
I can design a cohesive sustainable mini-collection.

Learning Targets
I can create garments using sustainable methods and materials.

Learning Targets
I can present my collection professionally.

Learning Targets



Resources	Previous work from earlier units Mood board templates
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