



Sustainable Fashion Lab I

10-session Hybrid-Learning Course

[Interactive Course Overview \(Subject to Change\)](#)

Course Materials: Sewing kit, Upcycled clothing, Computer or tablet for online webinar participation; all course reading, listening, and viewing materials are free online resources

Instructional Team: Nana Asare, Tenille Warren

Student Instructors: Andi Wiley, Tucker Kirchberger



Course Description

Do you love fashion? Do you like creating and designing? Do you care about making the fashion industry better and more innovative? Then, this course is for you! Students will learn how to be designers, brand creators, and business people!

In these ten sessions, we will explore the global impact of the current fashion industry while also learning about how future designers can create and build sustainable fashion brands. Currently, the fashion industry is responsible for 10 percent of the world's carbon emissions. By 2050, more than 25 percent of the entire global carbon budget will go to this one industry. Designers and brands across the globe are tackling this problem by reimagining existing clothing pieces, reinventing supply chains, and exploring new sustainable materials.

A team of instructors, along with guest designers and sustainable clothing experts, will support participants as they explore sustainable fashion while honing their own style. For their final project, our young designers will create and present their own eco-friendly fashion piece using everyday materials along with developing a marketing and social impact plan for getting their designs out in the world.



Course Goals

1. Students will understand the impact of the fashion industry on the environment, as well as new and historical trends in sustainable fashion
2. Students will redesign and reimagine fashion pieces (e.g. clothing, jewelry, accessories, etc.) by learning basic repurposing skills
3. Students will develop business plans for imagining their fashion brand and sharing their fashion pieces
4. Students will design and create a sustainable fashion piece for their final project



Final Portfolio Project

By the end of the course, students will have created their own redesigned item of fashion. Potential projects include using old clothing to create accessories, restyling clothing through painting, embroidery, and graphic printing. All projects will be digitally archived in a format compatible with leading online college applications.



Drop in Orientation Session

Note: There will be a required kick-off orientation session before Week 1 to equip all students to use Google Classroom and digital portfolio tools.

Instructional Team



Nana Asare, Co-Lead Instructor

Nana Asare is an upcoming stylist based in the New York City Area. Nana is also a student attending Morgan State University, studying fashion merchandising and product development. In Nana's free time he enjoys upcycling his thrifted clothes to fit his eclectic style. "I am excited and very much grateful to be able to reach and give the high quality knowledge that I learned in the industry on sustainable fashion to my amazing students."- Nana Asare



Andi Wiley, Student Instructor

Andi is a rising senior at Wesleyan University majoring in Economics and Psychology with a minor in Writing. As a San Francisco Bay Area native, she is passionate about creating a more equitable behavioral health system for the social and emotional well-being of California's youth, which she does through her work with the California Children's Trust. She also plays midfield on Wesleyan's women's soccer team; loves anything fashion-related from thrifting to sewing and altering her own clothes; and enjoys cooking and eating healthy food, which she shares on instagram @happi.healthi.









Tucker Kirchberger, Student Instructor

Currently a rising senior at Wesleyan University, Tucker is originally from New Jersey, where he had a background in wrestling. His areas of interest include literature, writing, and music. He is majoring in Philosophy and Environmental Studies.







Visiting Guest Experts and Core Course Content

2-3 guest experts will join particular class sessions for interactive interviews with students






<p style="text-align: center;">Lexi Funk</p>  <p>Lexi Funk is the Founder and CEO of Brooklyn Industries. Her clothing brand has stores in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Portland and Chicago and is dedicated to using fashion as a medium for making art. During the global pandemic, her company switched entirely from selling clothes in “brick & mortar” stores to selling entirely online and she started a new thrifting business.</p> <p> Click here to watch an interview with Lexi.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Marcus Chung</p>  <p>Marcus Chung is the VP of Manufacturing and Supply Chain at ThirdLove. As a social responsibility leader, Marcus’ experience includes leading global teams to deliver exceptional product quality, cost and delivery results. In addition, he has developed strategies to drive sustainability and protect garment workers’ rights in the supply chain.</p> <p> Click here to listen to a podcast with Marcus.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ona Hauert</p>  <p>Ona Hauert is a senior at Wesleyan University, and the founder of her own fashion design company called onaprints. A one-woman operation, onaprints strives to slow down the pace in today’s fashion industry, with long-lived, timeless clothing. Each piece she creates is one-of-a-kind.</p> <p> Click here to see Ona turn a shirt into a work of art.</p>
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Core Course Content

Together, we will explore the writing of and interviews with these public figures.

<p style="text-align: center;">UN Environmental Programme</p>  <p>UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and advocates for the global environment.</p> <p> Click here to learn more about the UN Environmental Programme.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The True Cost</p>  <p>The True Cost, filmed in countries all over the world, from the brightest runways to the darkest slums, and featuring interviews with the world’s leading influencers including Stella McCartney, Livia Firth and Vandana Shiva, is an unprecedented project that invites us on an eye opening journey around the world and into the lives of the many people and places behind our clothes.</p> <p> Click here to watch a trailer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion</p>  <p>The United Nations Alliance for Sustainable Fashion works to support coordination between UN bodies working in fashion and promoting projects and policies that ensure that the fashion value chain contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals’ targets.</p> <p> Click here to check out the website</p>
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Course-at-a-Glance

<p>Content Theme: Finding inspiration in Sustainable Fashion Project Stage: Introduction and Ideation</p> <p><i>"There is no power for change greater than community discovering what it cares about." - Meg Wheatley</i></p>	
<p> Session 1: Welcome & Intro to Sustainability</p>	<p> Session 2: Vision Boarding</p>
<p>Goal: Get to know one another and explore sustainable fashion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of learning environment do we want to form? • What is sustainable fashion and why is it important? • What do you love about fashion? <p>Want a sneak peak? Check this out:  Click here to watch a video about sustainable clothing at UNEA.</p>	<p>Goal: Create a vision board for what you hope to accomplish with your final project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I want to accomplish with my final project? • How can I create a project that will make a positive impact? • What sustainable designers inspire me the most? <p>Want a sneak peak? Check this out:  Click here to checkout a former MeshEd students' vision board</p>
<p> Digital Deposit: Upload your vision board for your final project</p>	

<p>Content Theme: What's Going on in the Fashion Industry? Project Stage: Project Planning</p> <p><i>"As consumers we have so much power to change the world by just being careful in what we buy." —Emma Watson</i></p>	
<p> Session 3: Fast Fashion & Our World Guest Speaker: Lexy Funk or Ona Hauert</p>	<p> Session 4: PBL Guided Workshop 1: Sewing Workshops</p>
<p>Goal: Research possible topics, issues and focus areas for your documentary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a brand? • How does the fashion industry impact the environment? • How can I build my own brand? <p>Want a sneak peak? Check this out:  Click here to watch "The True Cost"</p>	<p>Goal: Gather materials and finalize your ideas for your project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sustainable tools do fashion creators use? • What kind of sewing or embellishment is right for my project? • How much time do I need to produce my project and my presentation materials? <p>Want a sneak peak? Check this out:  Click here to watch a video about hand-sewing  Click here to check out how to sew using a machine</p>
<p> Digital Deposit: Upload a picture of gathered materials and final plan for your project</p>	

**Content Theme: The Sustainable Fashion Industry
Project Stage: Digital Portfolio**

"Fashion can be a universal player in protecting the planet" -Pharrell Williams

 **Session 5:** Sustainable Fashion Practices

 **Session 6: PBL Guided Workshop 2:** Environmentally Conscious AND Fashionable!

Goal: Learn how the fashion industry impacts the environment

- What are sustainable fashion brands?
- What are the issues with unethical labor practices?
- What sustainable choices do I have as a fashion consumer?
- Mid-course survey

Want a sneak peak? Check this out:



[Click here](#) to check out Ona's creations!



[Click here](#) to watch "While I Yet Live," Maris Curran's beautiful, immersive film about a group of master quilters in the small town of Gee's Bend, Ala


Goal: Make progress on your business plans

- How can I embellish my sustainable fashion to make it exciting and unique?
- How can I use buttons and patterns to make my clothing pop?
- Review mid-course survey data & reset personal goals

Want a sneak peak? Check this out:



[Click here](#) to checkout the guidelines for developing a digital portfolio

 **Digital Deposits:** Upload pictures or video of sustainable fashion design

**Content Theme: Practicing Sustainable Fashion (Then & Now)
Project Stage: Committing to Project Topic & Plan Development**

"It isn't enough just looking for the quality in the products we buy, we must ensure that there is quality in the lives of the people who make them." - Orsola De Castro

 **Session 7:** The Ethics of Fashion Practices
Guest Speaker: Ona Hauert or Marcus Chung

 **Session 8: Guided Workshop 3** Finalize your product

Goal: Explore the impact of a fashion company's supply chain

- How does the supply chain work? Which fashion companies prioritize ethical supply chains?
- How can we encourage our communities to become more sustainable?

Want a sneak peak? Check this out:



[Click here](#) to watch a video about the supply chain.


Goal: Finish our sustainable fashion designs

- Develop: This will be a work period for students to ask questions, develop hands-on skills, and continue refining their work for the final project/ presentation

Want a sneak peak? Check this out:



[Click here](#) to see an example of a digital portfolio

 **Digital Deposit:** Upload a refined business plan to incorporate sustainable practices and questions for guest expert

Project Presentations
Project Stage: Practice, Pitch, & Present

"Creating is about sharing ideas, sharing aesthetics, sharing what you believe in with other people." - Shepard Fairey

 **Session 9: PBL Guided Workshop 4:**
Preparing Digital Portfolios & Practicing
with Feedback


Goal: Prepare digital portfolios and practice presentations

- How can I give a compelling and engaging presentation?
- How can I set up a digital portfolio to document my progress during the Lab?
- What did I learn from the feedback on my practice presentation?

 **Session 10: Final Project Presentations**

Goal: Present your projects and get feedback

- What have you learned about your personal creative process?
- What do you want to do next?
- Final survey

 **Digital Deposit:** A business proposal and digital portfolio, with applicable feedback for your future endeavors.

About the Brooklyn Action Lab

Brooklyn Action Lab offers unique project-based learning experiences designed by Meshed, an education collective whose mission is to increase access to high quality project based learning for all adolescents. Learn more about our Lab offerings on our [website](#).