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Faculty Showcase

Fashion Design

Barbara Trippeer

Associate Professor





ADES 4550 Fashion Design Pre-Collection
Prepares BFA fashion design senior students to develop their capstone collections in accordance with fashion industry standards of professionalism.





ADES 4555 Senior Collection
Prepares BFA fashion design students for finalization of their senior collection capstone and presentation to industry professionals.



ADES 2570 Fashion Drawing
Students explore a variety of mediums to express their 2D fashion concepts.



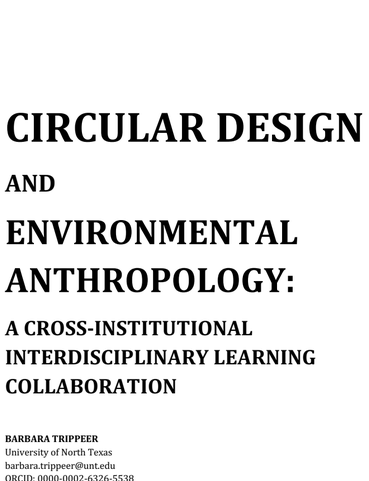




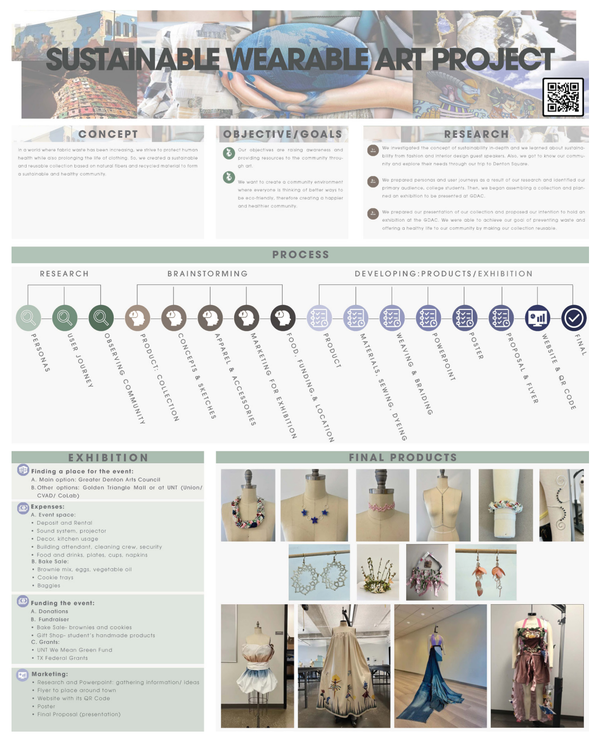
ADES 5900 MFA Special Problems
Graduate course for developing MFA disseration and thesis.

My research and teaching focus on **sustainable design, interdisciplinary practice, lifecycle thinking**, and critical cultural theory to foster **socially responsible fashion** design education. I employ **experiential, student-centered** methods that focus on **critical thinking and real-world applications**, preparing students to be impactful agents of change.

Interdisciplinary practice is a key component of my curriculum, **blending fashion design, cultural theory, and educational psychology**. I strive to create inclusive environments that nurture ethical and innovative designers beyond the classroom, utilizing evidence-based pedagogy and related research initiatives to connect theory with practice and emphasize environmental ethics.







SUSTAINABLE DESIGN FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

FASHION ACTIVISM FOR PROSPERITY THROUGH SERVICE LEARNING

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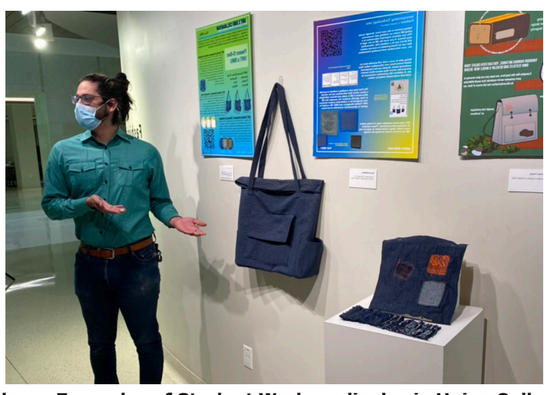
Circular Design and Environmental Anthropology: A Cross-institutional Interdisciplinary Learning Collaboration

Teaching Fashion Sustainably
Bloomsbury Publishing
(currently in pre-press)

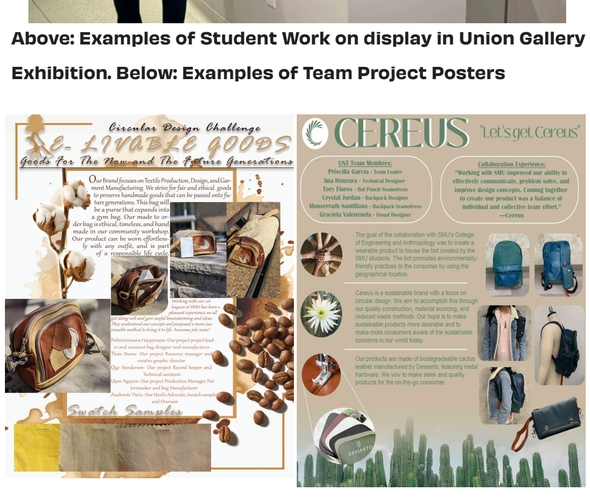
This case study explores a collaborative project between the University of North Texas and Southern Methodist University focused on sustainability in the fashion industry through interdisciplinary education. Professors Barbara Trippeer and Maryann Cairns led students from design and environmental anthropology in addressing sustainable development challenges in apparel.

The initiative promoted awareness of the negative impacts of fashion consumption and encouraged sustainable living habits. Students engaged in a collaborative project that utilized critical making, circular design processes, and incorporated a “sustainability bot” for communication. They worked in teams, with anthropology students serving as sustainability advisors, examining the entire product life cycle.

The curriculum emphasized circular design principles and ethical considerations, fostering the creation of sustainable products through iterative feedback. This inter-institutional study aimed to clarify misconceptions about sustainable development.



Above: Examples of Student Work on display in Union Gallery Exhibition. Below: Examples of Team Project Posters



The Circular Design Challenge

Partnership with Southern Methodist University’s Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences

Sustainable Design for Healthy Communities

Fashion Activism Through Service Learning

Empowering students with knowledge of sustainable development can inspire them to become fashion activists. This case study, Sustainable Design for Healthy Communities, demonstrates how service learning deepens students’ understanding of sustainability through real-world application.

In this project, Design students engaged with concepts such as material selection, circular and zero-waste design, and lifecycle thinking, while also incorporating user experience strategies. Through rapid ethnography, students identified local community needs, built personas, and created journey maps to develop impactful, community-centered design solutions.

This process shifted their perspective from fashion designers to fashion activists committed to community well-being. In collaboration with instructors and community partners, students produced a sustainable product collection, a web-based marketing campaign, and a series of educational craft workshops. These workshops empowered them to lead initiatives promoting sustainable lifestyle changes.

The project illustrates how a systems-thinking approach can transform fashion education and activate students to use design as a tool for social change and environmental impact.



Examples of Student Workshop organizers along with their sustinably designed projects.



Sustainable Design for Healthy Communities

Collaboration with CVAD’s Fashion Design, Interior Design, and User Experience disciplines, Community Partnership with the Greater Denton Arts Council

CVAD DESIGN MONTH 2025

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