Objective:
To help students learn French vocabulary within the context of French fashion design

Suggested Classes: French

Student Activity:
Students write an essay about fashion in French.

Suggested Materials:
• Access to the Internet
• Paper, pencil
• Fashion magazines

Warm-Up Exercise:
Have students give themselves a French name to get them in the mood to learn about the French and fashion.

In a class discussion, have students volunteer names of known French fashion designers. List these designers on the board and have a brief discussion about them. French designers could include: Marc Bohan, Pierre Cardin, Coco Chanel, Christian Dior, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Hermès, Christian Lacroix, Christian Louboutin, Sonia Rykiel, Yves Saint Laurent, and Madeleine Vionnet.

Project Guidelines:
Give students a list of French words pertaining to fashion (suggestions are below). Have students write the literal translation for each word and how it might be used in a fashion sense. Using these words/phrases, have them write a one-page single-spaced essay in French reviewing a current French fashion designer's collection. To support their essay, they can include images found online or clipped from magazines.
Follow-Up Exercise:

When English is short a fashion word, it sometimes borrows one from France. From the vocabulary list, identify words used in the English language that are actually French words. Give prizes or extra credit for the student that finds the most words.

Vocabulary List:

“Plus ça change, moins ça va.” - The more things change, the less things work out
à la mode - Fashionable
à ma façon - my way
avant-garde - ahead of its time
avec élan - with a distinctive flair
avec panache - with verve, flamboyance
azuré - that has the color of the sky/blue
blanc/blanche - white
blasé - who is disgusted of everything
bleu/bleue - blue
bouillonné - a gathered shirred band of fabric
c’est la mode - “So is fashion”
chic - stylish
de la peau de soie - delustered, less shiny, dull skin of silk
de pied en cape - from head to toe
de rigueur - required or expected, especially in reference to fashion
de trop - excessive/too much
démodé - old fashion
des tennis - (sports) shoes
déshabillé/négligé - partially clad, sheer dressing gown
du burat - sturdy, yet very light, woolen fabric
du cachet - a distinctive quality
du jour - “of the day”/said of something fashionable or hip for a day
and quickly forgotten
du lame - a type of fabric woven or knit with metallic yarns
du linon à fleurs - floral printed fine lawn or linen
du macramé - coarse lace work made with knotted cords
du tricot - a knit fabric
eau de cologne - fragrance made in the city of Cologne, Germany,
with a smaller percentage of aromatic oils than eau de toilette
eau de toilette - fragrance made with a smaller percentage of
aromatic oils/lighter than perfume
faux/fausse - false
habiller - to dress
jaune - yellow
la couture - the fashion
la crêpe de Chine - clear type of material made of silk
la haute-couture - the industry setting the trend in the fashion world
la jeunesse dorée - the wealthy, fashionable young people (lit. “gilded youth”)
le costume - the suit
le couturier - the fashion designer
le décolletage - the low neckline
le dernier cri - the latest fashion (lit. “the last scream”)
le pantalon - the pants
le prêt-à-porter - clothes “ready-to-wear”
le velours - corduroy/the cloth of the king
louche - of questionable taste
noir/noire - black
nouveau riche - people who have recently become rich and who display their wealth ostentatiously (lit. “new rich”)
nouvelle vague - a new trend in something (lit. “new wave”)
par excellence - quintessential (lit. “by excellence”)
passé - out of fashion
petit/petite - small
rose - pink
rouge - red
s'habiller - to dress oneself
soi-disant - self-styled, so-called (lit. “self-saying”)
soigné - fashionable, polished
un chapeau - a hat
un chemisier - a blouse
un chignon - a bun/hairstyle worn in a roll at the nape of the neck
un déshabillé - a flimsy robe
un invitée/une invitée - a guest
un manteau - a coat
un peignoir - a woman’s dressing gown; a négligé, a bathrobe
un sac à main - a purse
un tailleur - a suit (for a woman only)
un tricot - a knitted garment
une brocante - jacquard-weave fabric having interwoven all over designs of raised figures, usually flowers or foliage
une ceinture - a belt
une chemise - a shirt
une jupe - a skirt
une robe de soirée - a gown
vert/verte - green
State and National Standards:

Arizona State Standards

Language Arts Standards: French
Concept 4 - Vocabulary
PO 1. The student will determine the meaning of vocabulary, using linguistic roots and affixes (e.g., Latin, Greek, Anglo-Saxon).

PO.5. The student will determine the meanings, pronunciation, contextually appropriate synonyms and antonyms, replacement words and phrases, etymologies and correct spellings of words by using resources such as general and specialized dictionaries, thesauri, glossaries, and the Internet when available.

California State Standards

Language Learning Continuum: French
Stage I - Text Type
Students can use short sentences, learn words and phrases, and simple questions and commands when speaking and writing.

Stage II - Text Type
Students can create simple paragraphs when writing.

Stage IV - Text Type
Students can create a series of coherent paragraphs when writing.

World Languages:
Stage I - Content
1.1. Students address discrete elements of daily life, including:
   m. Shopping, clothes, colors, and sizes

Stage II - Content
2.1. Students address topics related to self and the immediate environment, including:
   m. Clothing and fashion

Communication:
Stage II - Content
2.0. Students use created language (sentences and strings of sentences).
2.6. Produce and present a simple written, oral, or signed (ASL) product in a culturally authentic way.
Washington State Standards

Writing
2.2. The student writes in a variety of forms for different audiences and purposes.
2.1. Adapts writing for a variety of audiences.
2.2. Writes for different purposes.

World Language Learning Standards:
Communication: Communicate in Languages Other Than English.
Standard 1.2. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.

Standard 1.3. Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

Comparisons: Develop Insight into the Nature of Language and Culture.
Standard 4.1. Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparison of the language studied and their own.