

Week 4

Dressing as a Muslim

Surah 24:30-31 talks about modesty and how men **and** women should practice the use of a hijab or averting their gaze.

We have all seen the head covering so next section is the application of Surah 24. In theory it applies equally to men and women. But has been applied heavily on women. Tradition says a woman does not have to cover herself if the man is gay, enuch, or blind. So there is the implication of preventing the leer.

Side note:The “scarf affair” began in France in 1989. It is a movement toward assimilation. Jacque Chirac ratified the “veil law” in 2003. It bans veils that mostly or completely cover the face in the name of reducing security risks and more generally an allegiance to the French ideal of French secularity in public. And terrorist men have dressed as women in Afghanistan. A guy in Silver Spring, Maryland tried to rob a bank in hijab (not Muslim)

It is not a ban on “hijab” that don’t obscure the face but the on “complete” hijabs like chadors and niqabs. See next section

Men and Women have different ways of expressing their faith through clothes.

Men

Kufi

The primary head dress of a man. Looks a lot like a beanie but can be as small as a Jewish yarmulke. Sign of faith and submission.

Thobe

A long robe worn by Muslim men. The top is usually tailored like a shirt, but it is ankle-length and loose. Think Gulf states.

Ghutra and Egal

A square or rectangular head scarf worn by men, along with a rope band (usually black) to fasten it in place. Think Yassir Arafat.

Bisht

A dressier men's cloak which is sometimes worn over the thobe, like a power suit

Women

Chador and khimar – covers torso and head

Al-amira two piece veil: cap and scarf shaped like a tube.

Shayla – long rectangle of cloth wrapped around head and neck. A Gulf state favorite.

Niqab – half ski mask with large veil covered torso

Burqa – complete covering. Even the eyes are veiled by mesh in some versions.

Dupatta – some women in India / Pakistan wear this type. A simple, small scarf mainly covering just the hair. As much cultural as religious.