

Lesson Plan - Representations of Veiling in Art (for instructor use- based on 45 min class period, including additional potential homework assignment)

Part 1- (10 mins) Give a brief introduction to the photographs and/or paintings chosen from the veiling website's visual arts section. (<http://veil.unc.edu/arts/visual-arts/>)

The instructor can choose 2-3 pieces of art on which to focus.

The instructor can do this directly from the website where there is a short background description of the painting/photo provided.

Part 2- (15-20 mins) Have students work in groups of 3-4 to discuss the following questions in reference to the paintings/photographs.

It would be helpful to have hard copies of the paintings/photographs such that students can reference them all simultaneously.

The following questions may be used in conjunction with any of the art works presented on <http://veil.unc.edu/arts/visual-arts/> in order to stimulate and facilitate classroom discussion and critical thinking:

*****Questions to be distributed to student groups:*****

- 1. Look at the way the veil is styled in each image. What effect does the veil—worn, discarded, pushed to the side—have on our interpretation of the female figure? How does she appear?**
- 2. How do artists use other objects—light, curtains, doors, shadows, etc. as “veils” or suggest veiling in the images?**
- 3. Many of the Orientalist art works were created during European colonial expansion in North Africa and the Middle East. In what way do you imagine these paintings could be used to promote the idea of European superiority (and by extension, “Oriental” inferiority)?**
- 4. Using what you have learned, identify and discuss Orientalist motifs in the images provided.**

Part 3- (15 -20 mins) Class discussion during which groups report back the answers to the questions discussed above. Instructor can lead the class through each question, having a different group start with its response to the question but allowing other groups to add in contributions.

Possible Homework assignment with connection to contemporary photography-

This assignment assumes student access to the internet- if this is a challenge, the instructor could always provide students with information and sample photographs that they could take home with them.

Students research Lalla Essaydi and Shadi Ghadirian's work. They should plan to bring in one photograph to present in class-including a discussion of the following questions:

- 1. Look at the way the veil is styled in each image. What effect does the veil—worn, discarded, pushed to the side—have on the way we see the female figure?**
- 2. How do artists use other objects—light, curtains, doors, shadows, etc. as “veils” or suggest veiling in the images?**
- 3. How have modern artists, such as Lalla Essaydi and Shadi Ghadirian, used elements of Orientalist paintings and photography to re-create the image of veiled women in new ways?**