Course Description:
From bridal veils to mourning veils, from Sunday bonnets to headscarves, from the legal doctrine of coverture to the practice of Purdah, one can trace a cross-cultural and trans-historical mandate to get women under cover. In this course we will examine this cultural obsession in a variety of texts—literary and legal, verbal and visual—as we ponder the material and metaphorical significance of the figure of the veiled woman. The class will end with a consideration of women who manipulate social expectations and deliberately go “undercover.”

Expectations: Lively, student-driven discussions resulting from careful reading and consideration of assigned texts.

Assignments:
2 papers (5pp each) 20% each
Due Dates:
   October 15th
   November 5th
15" Presentations (1 person) or
30" Discussion Partnerships (2 person) 20%
*Must include handout with copies for class.

Research project/paper 20%
Due Date: December 5th
Final Exam  
Thursday, December 17th  

Attendance Policy: You may miss four classes no questions asked, no excuses needed. After four classes you will drop a grade level, for example, if you were earning a B, you would be dropped to C. If you miss six or more classes you will receive a failing grade for this class.

Provisional Schedule:
Week One
M/25 Introduction: Assignment pick up packet begin reading Veil (packet)
W/27 Veil (course packet)
F/29 Veil

Week Two
M/1 Labor Day/ No Class
W/3 Hijab, Chaddor, and Burka
F/5 Purdah, Harems and Seraglos
HMWK Dreams of Trespass (electronic reserves)

Week Three
M/8 Dreams of Trespass (electronic reserves)
W/10 Dr. Anne Zahlan, Guest speaker
F/12 “Farewell, Betrothal, Wedding” by Huda Shaarawi; “Eyes” by Nawal al-Saadwi
“Veiling and Unveiling” by Nazira Zain al-Din (packet)

Week Four
M/15 Head Coverings in Judaism
W/17 On the Veiling of Virgins (packet)
F/19 The Virgin’s Veil—The Bride
Taking the Veil—The Nun

Week Five
M/22 The Covering of Marriage (excerpts from Gender and Law—packet) *start reading Mary Poovey essay.
W/24 Coverture / “A Brief Summary of the Most Important Laws…” (packet)
F/26 Coverture Contested

Week Six
W/Oct 1 “One of our Legal Fictions” from Household Words (handouts)
F/3 The Covering of Widowhood/Widow’s Weeds

Week Seven
M/13 Introduction to Barchester Towers pp1-47
W/15  Paper One Due; *Barchester Towers* pp 48-154
F/17  Reading Break/No Class

Week Eight
M/20  *Barchester Towers* Volume II
W/22  *Barchester Towers* Volume III
F/24  Bredesen, “An Emblem of All the Rest”

Week Nine
M/27  Intro to *Tenant of Wildfell Hall*  *Research Proposal Due*
W/29  Under the Cover of Widowhood/ *Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
F/31  Eastern Illinois University Literature Conference on John Donne

Week Ten
M/Nov 3  *Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
W/5   *Tenant of Wildfell Hall*  Paper #2 Due
F/7   TBA

Week Eleven
M/10  *The Gothic Veil*  *Sedgwick*
W/12  Salome and the Dance of the Seven Veils: Showalter “The Veiled Woman” from *Sexual Anarchy* (1990)
F/13  *The Veil of Gender: The Transvestite*

Week Twelve: Undercover Woman
M/17  *Mata Hari*
W/19  *Female Spies*
F/21  The Veil of Race: W.E.B. DuBois

Thanksgiving Recess: November 24th-28th

Week Fourteen:
M/1  *Blanche on the Lam*
W/3  *Blanche on the Lam*
F/5  Final Research Paper Due/ Presentations

Week Fifteen:
M/8  Presentations
W/10  Presentations
F/12  Last Class