Course Description:
This tutorial will consider the history and the changing meanings of the veil (hijab) and its many manifestations (e.g. burqa, chador, niqab), starting with the earliest religious traditions and the status of women in Islamic law. We will then proceed to examine imperialist and orientalist representations of gender in the Middle East, the rise of Islamic feminism and finally consider the emergence and return of the veil in recent years in the Middle East, North America, Asia and Europe.

Course Requirements:
Four 5-7 page essay and four response papers or “bullet point memos” (2-3 pages). Before Spring Break, instead of writing a formal response paper, you should prepare a “Bullet Point Memo”. After Spring Break you can choose between writing a formal response paper or continue with the bullet point memo.

In this tutorial there will be two competitions.
1) Best selfie. Each group needs to send the instructor a “selfie” from an unusual or unexpected location in Williamstown or beyond. This photo should be sent to the instructor by the 14th of February. Group with most votes wins. And they will win a prize.
2) Tea tasting. Each week, we will taste a different type of tea. Group with most points at the end of semester wins. The best tea tasters will also win a prize.
Suggestions for the Writing of Tutorial Essays

Writing is part of the process of thinking. While you should think through what you want to say before you begin to write, the process of writing itself helps you to clarify and refine your thoughts and ultimately to determine what it is you want to say. So you should not expect your first draft of an essay to be a finished product or final draft, but rather you should use your initial draft and the process of revision to clarify to yourself what you wish to say to others. In the same way, the essay that you present in a tutorial is meant to be the starting point of a conversation through which your ideas and arguments are further developed and become clearer and more refined. If a tutorial works ideally, by the end of it you would want to revise your essay yet again in some way.

For most people, writing is an arduous process. Writing well is rarely a natural gift. People become good writers after years of practice. To look on the bright side, becoming a good writer is an attainable goal, even for those of us for whom writing does not come naturally. When writing the primary tutorial essay, you should keep the following points in mind:

1) A strong, clear introductory paragraph is crucial.

As with any new encounter, first impressions are crucial. Your introduction sets the tone for the rest of the essay. If it is confused, the reader will have little incentive to continue into the body of the essay. You want to "hook" the reader's attention. I expect your papers' arguments to be comprehensible. At the end of your introductory paragraph there should be a clear thesis statement that tells the reader the major argument you will be making in the rest of the paper. Your thesis statement could be a rewording of the question, but it should be strong and explicit and make clear what you are committing yourself to demonstrate in the rest of the paper.

Above and beyond articulating your thesis clearly in the first paragraph is the larger goal of writing an interesting introduction. This can be done in many ways: beginning with a particularly juicy quote, a short provocative statement, or something poetic or metaphorical. There is no single way. Let your own individual style dictate the actual form of your "hook." But do avoid making sweeping statements that are historically insupportable about the nature of humankind, human history, the Egyptian people as a whole, and so on. Better to be overly specific than overly dramatic.

2) Use the Active Voice.

I'm sure you've heard this before, but it is worth repeating: Avoid the passive voice whenever possible. The passive voice is a sign of not only laziness, but more importantly also often unclear thinking on the part of an author. You should always try to determine and articulate who the subject is and what he, she, or it did.

Also avoid redundancy of nouns and modifiers. Approach each writing assignment as an opportunity to spice up your vocabulary. Keep a thesaurus and dictionary on your desk while you write.

3) Connect each paragraph to the preceding one.

In the body of your work, each paragraph should follow the preceding one in a logical and constructive way. Ideally, you should prepare an outline before you begin writing in which you lay out for yourself how each paragraph builds on the previous one.
and how all sections relate to the overall theme or argument of the paper. The keys to smooth flow are effective transitions. When the next paragraph is going to treat a new topic or issue, draw some sort of connection between the previous subject and the new subject. This can be done in either the last sentence of the previous paragraph or the first sentence of the new one. Your own ears can be valuable "flow judges." After you have finished a draft of your paper, read it out loud to yourself, your roommate, or a friend. Is it music to your ears? If not, revise it until it is. Have a friend proof read it or go to the Writing Workshop. Often, it is difficult for us to attain sufficient distance from our own writing to be able to edit it ourselves, so it can be worthwhile to have an outside reader help with revisions.

4) Time Management.

All these tips require time, effort, and planning on your part. Do yourself a big favor: don't wait until the last minute. You all have the potential to write captivating introductions, engaging background sketches, and active and vibrant arguments linked by fluid transitional sentences.

Responding to Tutorial Essays

The exercise of responding to your tutorial partner's essay serves at least two functions. First, it helps the writer of the primary paper refine their argument. Second, analyzing someone else's writing invariably helps improve your own, making you more self-conscious about questions of thesis, organization, paragraph development, style, grammar, and use of evidence.

In undertaking to read your tutorial partner's essay, you need to commit the time to do it well. Your goal should be a critical engagement with the essay; that is, you need to read it carefully and several times, identifying its strengths and weaknesses. Your job is not simply to criticize, but to provide a perspective on what the writer is doing in the essay and what he or she might do better (both at the level of ideas and at the level of the articulation of those ideas in writing).

In preparing your critique, you should give careful thought to the phrasing of your criticism and suggestions. After all, the goal is to promote further discussion, not to alienate your partner.

Please type out your comments in some form (notes, outline, written text), and bring a hard copy to class. In the tutorial session, you'll orally summarize your comments. Furthermore, you should also prepare 2-3 general questions about the readings or larger points that the primary paper raises. These questions will form the basis of our discussion.
The following questions are intended to help guide you through preparing your critiques and bullet points.

**Questions for Peer Readers to Consider:**

1) **Crux/Thesis:** What is the writer’s main point? Has the writer identified an issue or problem to explore?

2) **Analyze the Thesis:** Is the thesis, if present, explaining what, how, or why? Since why papers are almost always more interesting, how could you help the writer turn the thesis into a why statement? Write your suggestions, if any, for an improved thesis here.

3) **Introduction and Conclusion:** Look at the first paragraph. Does it set up a good context for discussion of the topic? Does it make you want to read the essay? Compare the first and last paragraphs. Has the author led you to the promised destination?

4) **Organization:** Is the order of the paragraphs helpful, clear, and/or effective for exploring the issue and accomplishing the goals of the essay? What about the order of the sentences in each paragraph? Make suggestions if parts of the essay seem out of place or seem to follow each other for no apparent reason.

5) **Evidence:** Are the ideas adequately backed up with evidence? Can you provide additional ideas? Other examples or anecdotes? Can you provide a clarifying metaphor? Do you have (or know of) different opinions about the subject? If so, does the writer need to take the different opinions into account?

6) **Argument:** Think about how the argument is carried through the essay. Do all the parts of the essay perform some function in supporting the thesis? What suggestions can you make to help the writer state a point more clearly or more convincingly, or to support an idea with a quotation? What criticism or further support for the writer/s interpretation can you offer?

7) **Points of Interest:** Does the essay make the writer’s ideas sound interesting? If so, point out where and how; if not, give some tips.

8) **Style:** Where is the language especially effective or catchy? Where, if anywhere, is it awkward? Point out these spots, and anything else that catches your attention as needing to be changed. Try to explain why.

9) **Other comments:** Any other comments or suggestions?
Readings:

2) Katherine Bullock, *Rethinking Muslim Women and the Veil* (IIIIT, 2010)
7) Leila Ahmed, *A Quiet Revolution* (Yale 2014)

Furthermore, we will watch and discuss the following movies in week 1 and 7.
   a) (un)veiled: Muslim women talk about the hijab
   b) A Separation. A film by Asghar Farhadi

Schedule:

Week 1: Watch and be ready to discuss: (un)veiled: Muslim women talk about the hijab
Week 2: Mernissi, The Veil and the Male Elite
Week 3: Abu-Lughod, Do Muslim Women Need Saving?
Week 4: Bullock, Rethinking Muslim Women
Week 5: Najmabadi, Women with Mustaches
Week 6: Individual meetings
Week 7: Watch and be ready to discuss: A Separation
Week 8: Ahmed, A Quiet Revolution
Week 9: Bucar, Pious Fashion
Week 10: Alimen, Faith and Fashion
Week 11: Scott, Politics of the Veil
Week 12: Group dinner