

Participation Exercise on the Anthropology of Religion (2%)

Podcast : *2 niqabs and a hijab: 3 Muslim women talk about the face covering.* Interview by: Anna Maria Tremonti (host of The Current on CBC)

Link to podcast: <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-march-19-2015-1.3001074/2-niqabs-and-a-hijab-3-muslim-women-talk-about-the-face-covering-1.3001080>

Reading: *Is the Practice of Purdah and Wearing Hijab Oppressive to Women or an Expression of Their Identity?* By Shirley A. Fedorak

The reading and podcast (radio show) explore what wearing hijab (and/or niqab) means *to the women who wear it*. Your job as a student is to learn about the “insider” point of view. Hopefully this exercise will help you to continue to think like an anthropologist and to learn about this “hot topic” much discussed during the Canadian election campaign this past fall (2015).

Step 1: Take handwritten notes on the podcast.

For your information, the interviewees names are spelled as follows.

- Shomyla Hammad is from Mississauga, Ontario and wears the niqab.
- Khadra Ali wore the niqab for a year, before deciding to take it off.
- Rezan Mosa is a student at Western University who wears the niqab.

Step 2: Answer the following “content” questions on the podcast (type your answers).

1. What is a *hijab*? What is *niqab*? What is the difference between the two?
2. Why do the women who are interviewed wear (or don't wear) the hijab/niqab?
3. What do their families think?
4. What to their husbands think?
5. Do/did they feel oppressed by wearing the hijab/niqab?
6. Other information you found relevant/important?

Step 3: Answer the following reflection questions (type your answers).

7. What did you learn that you did not know before (note: this is NOT an opinion question)? If none of this was new to you, describe what you think most people wouldn't know.
8. As a student of anthropology (and citizen of the world), what do you think the most important points are that emerge in the interview. Answer in 4 or 5 sentences.

Submission: Handwritten notes on podcast, typed answers to the eight questions.

Due: XXX