The Hijab Leah Hoffman. Oct. 15. 13.

The hijab is a headscarf that is worn by Muslim women meant to cover their hair, neck and chest area. Which makes sense, because hijab translated in Arabic means to conceal or hide from view. But this isn't the only way to do so. There are other forms of headdresses, one of which is the Chador, meant to fall from the head all the way to the floor, and is often worn along with the hijab, and is used to hide the shape of a woman's body by being so loose.

The other 2 get a little more serious with the whole covering thing. The first, the Niqab, is very similar to the hijab, but covers the entire face of the wearer leaving only the eyes to be seen. Next, we have the burqa, which will offer the most protection of a Muslims body out of the 4 covering. This involves a mesh (see-through) covering of the whole body, including the face and eyes.

Muslim women have to conceal their body with loose fitting clothes to not give away their shape, and are permitted to show only their hands, feet and face to strangers. Although, they are others that can see a Muslims supposed beauty, and those are usually other women, and close relatives, like her father, brother, uncle, etc. This is all said in the Qur'an (Qur'an 24:30-31), but there are other things Muslims must consider along with covering. Like their behaviour, personality, and clothing need to be modest, therefore not overly fancy or in rags.

Another thing the Qur'an says it to not resemble that of the opposite gender, and to completely cover their beauty from the world except in unavoidable instances, like the wind, or border patrol. But the Qur'an doesn't make any direct reference to the chador, niqab or burqa, so you may ask why they chose to wear them, when a simple hijab is acceptable.

A lot of Islamic women often find themselves feeling more liberating choosing a larger garment of covering, saying it allows for a higher level of worship, and more into the life of submissiveness. This allows them to dedicate themselves more to Allah, and his practices.

Personally, I believe in independence and being a unique individual, free to express and present what I have to offer to the world, and by wearing the hijab I feel that would imprint and force me to be someone Allah says I must be, and not who I want to be, going against what I believe in. For those completely given themselves to Allah, it's a great concept and supports everything Allah has said, but I do not worship him, and therefore the hijab, or any other forms of coverings, are not for me.