GWST 3450 – Spring 2017
GENDER AND BODY POLITICS IN LITERATURE
MWF 1:30 – 2:20 PM, CLB 321
Instructor: Dr. Jessica Glover

This reading-, writing-, and discussion-intensive course explores how the body remains one of the most significant cites for the enactment of power relations and is hence a vital site for their production, transformation, and critique. Taken as a whole, this course focuses on how writers tackle difficult and often taboo themes while portraying how the body often masks the particular racial, gendered, and sexualized practices that produce embodied difference. Among the topics we will examine are theories of gender as a performative masquerade; the relationship between patriarchy and biopower; the role of fashion, beauty, fitness, and public health discourses in mobilizing ‘body panic’ among women and enchanting them with ‘body projects’; and how women attempt to negotiate and resist heteronormative institutions, rituals, and roles.

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