

# ABJECT BODIES

ENGLISH 012S

SUMMER SESSION A 2025

ONLINE-SYNCHRONOUS M/W 9:00-11:00  
AM

JUNE 23 - JULY 26

PROF. JACQUES LEZRA

ADRITA MUKHERJEE

WHAT ARE BODIES IN WORKS OF LITERATURE—IN SHORT STORIES, IN PLAYS, IN NOVELLAS? IS MY BODY DIFFERENT IN ENGLISH FROM (SAY) MI CUERPO OR MON CORPS? HOW DO I PRESENT, AND HOW DO YOU READ, MY BODY'S "RACE," MY GENDER, MY PERCEIVED OR ACTUAL ABILITY?

HOW DO I PRESENT? IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY BODY AND HOW IT LOOKS AND WORKS IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS—AT PLAY, ALONE, IN A PUBLIC SPACE? HOW AND BY WHOM ARE THE SENSES, USES, PLEASURES, LIMITS, AND POSSIBILITIES OF BODIES SET? WHAT ARE BODIES IN WORKS OF LITERATURE—IN SHORT STORIES, IN PLAYS, IN NOVELLAS? IS MY BODY DIFFERENT IN ENGLISH FROM (SAY) MI CUERPO OR MON CORPS? HOW DO I PRESENT, AND HOW DO YOU READ, MY BODY’S “RACE,” MY GENDER, MY PERCEIVED OR ACTUAL ABILITY? SINCE ITS INVENTION, “LITERATURE” HAS BEEN CONCERNED WITH THIS RANGE OF QUESTIONS, IN DIFFERENT CONFIGURATIONS OVER TIME. WE WILL READ AND VIEW MAJOR WORKS BY SHAKESPEARE, CÉSAIRE, LE GUIN, AND MELVILLE POSING THESE QUESTIONS AND UNDERSTANDING HOW EACH TEXT SEEKS TO ANSWER THEM.

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