**Body Language: Love, Politics, and the Self in French Literature**

TR            2:00-3:15

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**Course Description**

What kinds of knowledge and/or conflicts might arise from or be created by the body? This course will explore representations of the body in French literature from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. Each unit will focus on a different century, tracing the status of the body through various societal, political, medical, and sexual configurations. Readings will be supplemented by illustrations, film clips and short creative writing assignments. **In English.**

**Course Goals and Objectives**

Over the course of the semester, we will:

Analyze the themes of gender, sexuality, politics, medicine, and the self, and their relationships to the body from sixteenth to twentieth-century France;

Trace the development of these themes from one period to the next;

Assess the relationship between interior and exterior self, and the changes this relationship has undergone throughout the centuries

Interpret the appearance of ‘body language’ in different texts and other French media

Relate the impact of ‘body language’ to the modern body and culture

Materials include texts by Racine, Marivaux, the Abbé de Choisy, Guibert, Foucault, Barbey d’Aurevilly, and various other supplementary readings and cultural products including a selection of films.