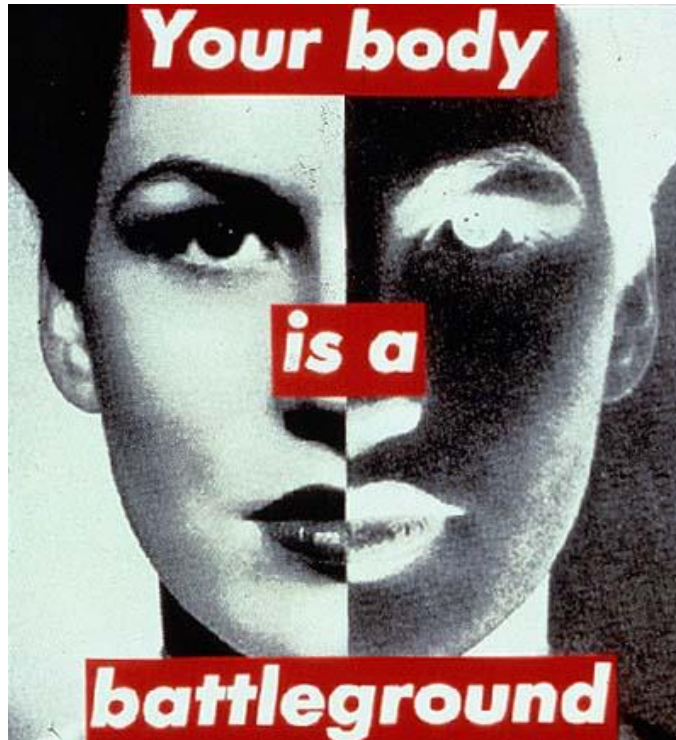


ENGL 172 Literature of the Human Body: *Your Body is a Battleground*
FALL 2024 Tuesday/Thursday 10:00am - 11:15am

Professor Lisa Weihman
lgweihman@mix.wvu.edu



Barbara Kruger, "Untitled (Your Body is a Battleground)" silk screen 1989

Catalog Description: ENGL 172 analyzes representations of the human body and its biological and psychological development and decline through literary, expository, and other cultural texts.

This class is about bodies and their representation in culture. There is nothing more foundational to your experience of the world than your body, and your bodily presence in the world is "read" by others every day. This semester, we will explore how bodies matter in culture, and ask questions about how textual representations of bodies impact our understanding of the world we live in and the bodies we inhabit. How have bodies become "battlegrounds" in contemporary culture? How do representations of the body shape public perception of difference and public policy? Cyber bodies, political bodies, bodies at war, bodies at rest, sexual bodies, racial bodies, gendered bodies, disabled bodies, traumatized bodies, and bodily autonomy are just some of the ideas we will encounter in a range of texts by artists as diverse as Mary Shelley, Franz Kafka, Barbara Kruger, Marina Abramovic and many others. We will explore the visual arts, poems, short stories, creative non-fiction, novels, essays, manifestos, and performance art.

With support from an OER grant from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, this class will use exclusively Open Educational Resources. **You will not need to purchase any textbooks.**

If your body is a battleground, who is winning the war?