

# Bodies and Texts

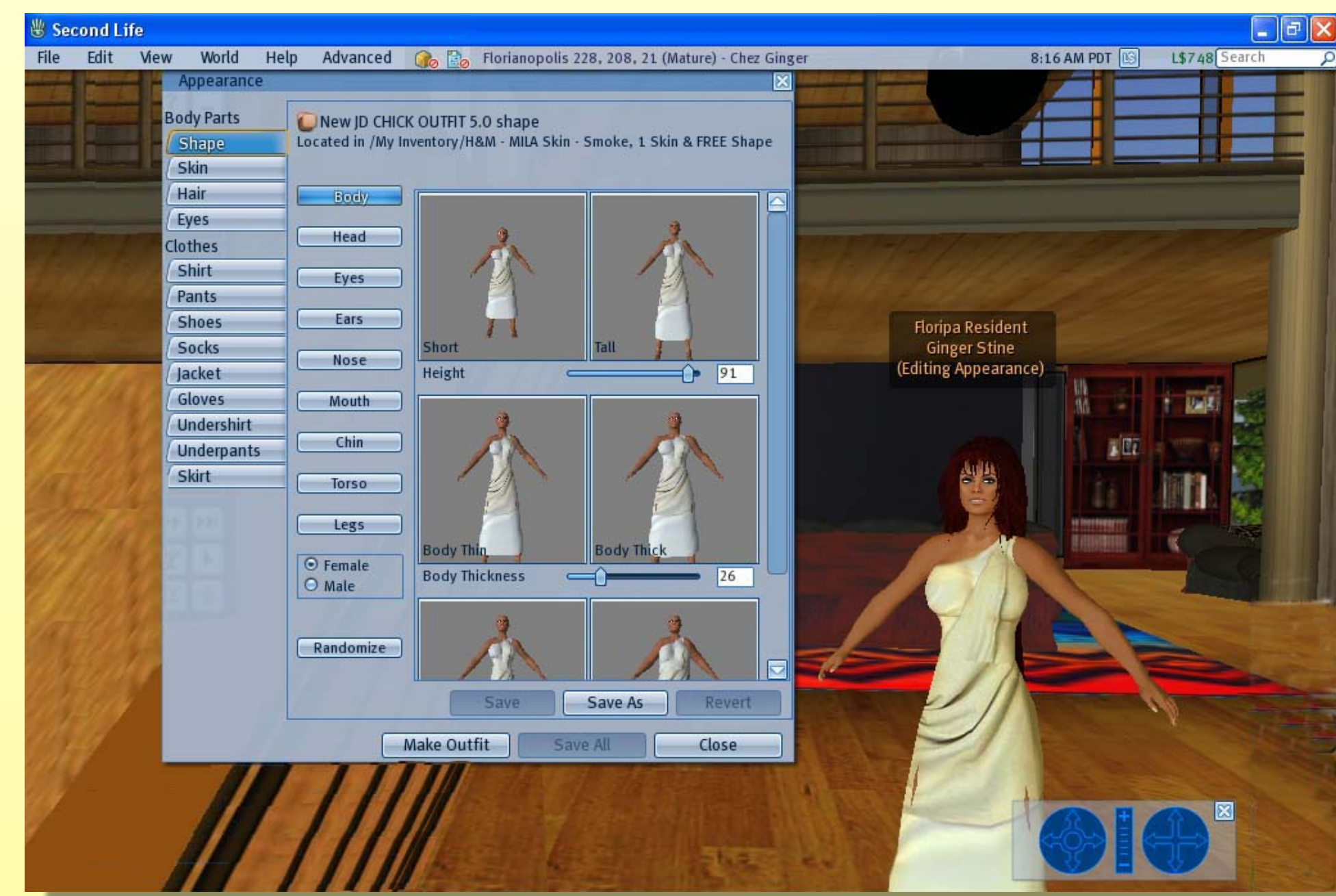
in



# SECOND LIFE®

## Assignment:

Design an avatar in Second Life and meet in-world to continue a class discussion on gender and embodiment.



## Process:

- One class session devoted to learning to use Second Life. (Probably should have been more time.)
- One class session for the in-world discussion, followed by a 15-minute real-world discussion.
- Both sessions held in the Media Cloisters.



## Questions:

- What might it be like to be embodied in different ways?
- What is it like to have an anonymous discussion?
- Will less vocal students communicate more in SL?



## Conclusions:

- Many of the students had fun, though some struggled with the technology.
- It didn't seem that meeting in SL necessarily illuminated the text we were reading.
- Students who were less vocal in the classroom were *not* more vocal in Second Life.
- If I were to do this again, I would do it in a very small class (five students), provide clearer parameters and not try to conduct a regular class activity.