



UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA

ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code LALI-471	Course Title Memoir and Life Writing	ECTS Credits 6
Department Languages and Literature	Semester Fall	Prerequisites LALI-250
Type of Course Required (literature concentration)	Field English Literature	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 4 th	Lecturer(s) Dr Polina Mackay
Mode of Delivery Dist. Learning	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

To study memoir and life writing as a distinct genre. We will explore classic and contemporary memoirs, letters, diaries and autobiographies. The course will focus on key themes, such as self, truth, secret, inheritance and trauma. Emphasis will also be placed on issues of gender, class and race.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of specific characteristics of life writing
2. place individual texts in a historical and cultural context
3. evaluate and apply key theories and concepts in the study of life writing
4. assess the contribution of life writing to modern literature
5. formulate interpretations of these texts in coherent essays and assignments

Course Contents:

1. Introduction (Theories of Autobiography)
2. Diaries and Letters (Virginia Woolf, the Bloomsbury years)
3. Literary Lives (H.D., *End to Torment: Memoir of Ezra Pound*)
4. Living in Countercultural America (Joyce Johnson, *Minor Characters: A Beat Memoir*)
5. Identity and Trauma (Lucy Grealy, *Autobiography of A Face*)
6. Life Writing and War (Brian Keenan, *An Evil Cradling*)

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Discussions with class participation
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Assessment Methods:

Homework Assignments; Final Exam; Class Participation.
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Required Textbooks:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
H.D.	<i>End to Torment</i>	New Directions	1979	081120720
Joyce Johnson	<i>Minor Characters</i>	Penguin	2006	9780140283570
Lucy Grealy	<i>Autobiography of a Face</i>	Harpercollins	2003	0060569662
Brian Keenan	<i>An Evil Cradling</i>	Vintage	1993	0099472147

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Hermione Lee	<i>Biography: A Short Introduction</i>	Oxford UP	2009	0199533547
Shari Benstock	<i>The Private Self</i>	U of North Carolina P	1988	9780807842188
Sidonie Smith	<i>Reading Autobiography</i>	Minnesota UP	2001	9780816669851