



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
LALI-471	Memoir and Life-Writing	6
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
LALI-200	Languages & Literature	Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Elective	Literature	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Dr Polina Mackay	3 rd , 4 th
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Face 2 Face	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to teach students how to:

- Read memoir and life-writing as distinct genres
- Explore classic and contemporary memoirs, letters, diaries and autobiographies
- Analyze key themes, such as self, truth, secret, inheritance and trauma

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 Content:

1. Introduction to Life Writing
2. Faking It
3. Virginia Woolf, A Room of One's Own
4. Virginia Woolf, Letters and Diary Entries
5. H.D., End to Torment
6. Jack Kerouac, On The Road

7. Beat Women I: Carolyn Cassady
8. Beat Women II: Diane di Prima
9. Beat Women III: Brenda Frazer
10. Maxine Hong Kingston, The Woman Warrior
11. Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis
12. Revision

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, forums, individual and group work.

Assessment:

Midterm, Essay, Course Participation, Final Exam

Required Textbooks:

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

Recommended Textbooks / Reading:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Biography: A Short Introduction	Hermione Lee	Oxford UP	2009	0199533547
<i>The Private Self</i>	Shari Benstock	U of North Carolina P	1988	9780807842188

<i>Reading Autobiography</i>	Sidonie Smith	Minnesota UP	2001	9780816669851
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