

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

AP/EN 4252 6.0A (Y)

Canadian Life Writing

Course Director:

Instructor: Agnes Whitfield
Email: agnesw@yorku.ca

Delivery Format:

Fully Online

Time:

N/A

Description:

This course offers students an introduction to the theory of life writing in general, and to the practice of life writing in Canada in particular, from the late nineteenth century to the present, with special attention given to works written by men and women known for their practice as writers and by subjects writing from a minority position. Through readings of selected texts and criticism, students will enhance their understanding of how life writing has been defined theoretically, and what factors, including aesthetic and editorial traditions, and political and social contexts, have contributed to the emergence and evolution of life writing texts in Canada and shaped how these texts have been perceived by writers and readers. A varied sampling of the rich corpus of Canadian life writing texts will offer students an opportunity to explore in depth how life writing has made a fundamental contribution to Canadian culture, and how contemporary Canadian writers are transforming the genre. The course pedagogy is learner-centered. Students will be encouraged to reflect and build on their own knowledge and point of view as readers and writers. They will have an opportunity to revise their research papers, using the instructor's feedback, to improve their mark. The Internet format will encourage interactive pedagogical strategies, and reinforce individual learning opportunities.

Category:

C

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

First term research paper (2000 words): 20%
First term reading test: 15%
Second term research paper (2000 words): 20%
Course journal: 25%
Internet postings and participation: 20%

Reading List:

Blais, Marie-Claire. *A Writer's Journey*. Trans Linda Gaboriau, Burnaby British Columbia): Talonbooks, 1996; Fong Bates, Judy. *The Year of Finding Memory: A Memoir*. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2011; Callaghan, Morley. *That Summer in Paris*. Toronto: Exile Press, 2007 (originally published by Coward-McCann, New York, in 1963); Glassco, John. *Memoirs of Montparnasse*, New York: New York Review of Books, 2007 (originally published by Oxford University Press, Toronto, in 1970); Joe, Rita. *The Song of Rita Joe: Autobiography of a Mikmaq Poet*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996; Meigs, Mary. *Lily Briscoe: A Self-Portrait*. Burnaby (British Columbia): Talonbooks, 1981; Raab, Elisabeth M. *And Peace Never Came*, Waterloo (Ontario): Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1997; Roy, Gabrielle, *Enchantment and Sorrow*. Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1987. Other texts will be available in a course kit, or through the Internet.

Open To:

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