

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

AP/EN 4161 3.0A (F)	Theory and Practice of Autobiography
Course Director:	Name: Prof. Julia Creet Office: Atkinson 604 e-mail: creet@yorku.ca virtual office hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30; Thursday 1:30-2:30 and by appointment Moodle site: https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=183313
Time:	Tuesday 11:30-2:30 via Zoom
Delivery Format:	REMOTE – (synchronous delivery) – There are scheduled meeting times for this course (see above). Students should plan to be available for course-related activities during the appointed times. For more information, see the Description and/or Requirements below.
Description:	This course will examine the genre of autobiography—the account of the author's own life—in both historical and contemporary texts. How do authors discover and create themselves? Are they reliable and unreliable narrators? What metaphors, devices and genres (ie. portraits, confessions and graphic illustrations) do they use to tell a compelling story? A variety of critical approaches will be considered (eg. allegory, cultural specificity, and close textual analysis). The objectives of the course will be to acquire the critical skills for interpreting the genre and to think about how we narrate ourselves.
Category:	B
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	2 response papers (approx. 750-1000 words) each worth 20%. Leading class discussion, based on response papers 20%. 1 final essay or autobiographical work (approx. 2500 words) worth 40%
Reading List:	Primary Readings will include selections from: St. Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> Gertrude Stein, <i>The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas</i> James Agee, <i>Let Us Now Praise Famous Men</i> Ann Frank, <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> Maya Angelou, <i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i> Art Spiegelman <i>Maus</i> McBride <i>The Color of Water</i>

	<p>James Frey, <i>A Million Little Pieces</i> Frank McCourt, <i>Angela's Ashes</i> Jeannette Wall, <i>The Glass Castle</i> Marjan Satrapi, <i>Persepolis</i> Alison Bechdel, <i>Fun Home</i> Sherman Alexie, <i>Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> Patti Smith, <i>Just Kids</i> Augie Merastry, <i>The Education of Augie Merastry</i></p> <p>Critical readings will include selections from works by: Sidonie Smith, Julia Watson, Gillian Whitlock, Lee Gilmore, Julie Rak, Philippe Lejeune</p> <p>Whenever possible, links to online texts or PDFs of selections will be provided. Students might have to buy some ebooks or order some hardcopies texts from online suppliers.</p>
Open To:	Year 4 Honours