

FW 2025-26

AP/EN 4252 6.0A (Y)	Canadian Topics: Life Writing
Course Director:	<p>Agnes Whitfield agnesw@yorku.ca https://profiles.laps.yorku.ca/profiles/agnesw/</p> <p>Weekly online consultation through the eClass chat function; Virtual office hours by appointment</p>
Time:	online
Delivery Format:	ONLINE
Description:	<p>This course offers students an introduction to the theory of life writing in general and to the rich practice of life writing in Canada in particular, from the late nineteenth century to the present, with special attention given to works written by binary and non-binary men and women known for their practice as writers and by subjects speaking 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 as well as 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 remarkable 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.</p> <p>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. Writing a course journal will offer an experiential learning experience. The Internet format will encourage interactive pedagogical strategies, and reinforce individual learning opportunities.</p>
Category:	C
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	<p>First term research paper (2000 words): 20% First term reading test: 15% Second term research paper (2000 words): 20% Course journal: 25% Participation: 20%</p>
Reading List:	<p>Blais, Marie-Claire. <i>A Writer's Journey</i>. Trans Linda Gaboriau, Burnaby, British Columbia: Talonbooks, 1996; Callaghan,</p>

	<p>Morley. <i>That Summer in Paris</i>. Toronto: Exile Press, 2007; Fontaine, Naomi. <i>Kuessipan</i>. Trans. David Homel. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press, 2013; Glassco, John. <i>Memoirs of Montparnasse</i>, New York: New York Review of Books, 2007; Joe, Rita. <i>The Song of Rita Joe: Autobiography of a Mikmaq Poet</i>. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996; Laferrière, Dany, <i>The World is Moving Around Me: A Memoir of the Haiti Earthquake</i>, Trans. David Homel. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2013; Meigs, Mary. <i>Lily Briscoe: A Self-Portrait</i>. Burnaby, British Columbia: Talonbooks, 1981; Raab, Elisabeth M. <i>And Peace Never Came</i>, Waterloo Ontario: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 1997; Roy, Gabrielle, <i>Enchantment and Sorrow</i>. Trans. Patricia Claxton. Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys, 1987. Exerpts from a diverse range of other readings will be available in a course kit.</p>
Open To:	Yr 4 Honours (EN/ENPR/CRWR students only)