



Universitat de Lleida

DEGREE CURRICULUM

# **AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN ENGLISH**

Coordination: VALENTOVA , KATERINA

Academic year 2023-24

## Subject's general information

Subject name	AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN ENGLISH			
Code	101292			
Semester	1st Q(SEMESTER) CONTINUED EVALUATION			
Typology	Degree	Course	Character	Modality
	Bachelor's Degree in English Studies	2	OPTIONAL	Attendance-based
	Double degree: Bachelor's degree in English Studies and Bachelor's degree in Applied Languages and Translation	2	OPTIONAL	Attendance-based
Course number of credits (ECTS)	6			
Type of activity, credits, and groups	Activity type	PRAULA		TEORIA
	Number of credits	4		2
	Number of groups	1		1
Coordination	VALENTOVA , KATERINA			
Department	FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES			
Important information on data processing	Consult <a href="#">this link</a> for more information.			

Teaching staff	E-mail addresses	Credits taught by teacher	Office and hour of attention
VALENTOVA , KATERINA	katerina.valentova@udl.cat	6	

## Learning objectives

The main objectives considered for this subjects are:

- To learn the main elements of the autobiography in English.
- To learn the main authors in the autobiography in English.
- To learn and to use the main terms in literary criticism when analysing an autobiographical text.
- To establish an interaction between History, society and cultural and literary production.
- To search and use secondary sources in an academic context.

## Competences

General competences:

- CG3 To prove creativity and initiative.
- CG4 To apply the principles and implications of the academic and professional ethics in the academic productions.
- CG6 To work in group (intra and interdisciplinary) and to manage personal relationships.
- CG8 To adapt to new situations.
- CG9 To prove motivation for the quality and rigour.
- CG13 To apply theoretical knowledge to the practice.
- CG14 To use the specialized TIC for the scientific study of the English language as well as its literatures and cultures.

Specific competences:

- CE7 To apply acquired knowledge to the professional circumstances.
- CE10 To analyse the main texts and the (autobiographical) genre in English language.
- CE14 To analyse the interaction between history, society and cultural production in English language.

## Subject contents

Module 1:

- Introduction, approach to autobiography as a literary genre

Module 2:

- Autobiographical subgenres

Module 3:

- Narratives of exile and diaspora

Module 4:

- Experimental life-writing

## Methodology

In this subject, lectures will be combined with practical sessions in presential as well as virtual mode. In the practical sessions, the students will be asked to participate actively in activities focused on the analysis of the texts that will be dealt with during the classes. In addition, several discussions lead by the lecturer will be carried out with the aim of helping the students to establish a dialogue between their previous knowledge and the contents dealt with in the lectures and, also, with the selected texts analysed in class. Moreover, a group project will be done with the aim of bringing the students closer to the interpretative techniques of different types of the autobiographical genre, collaborative work and the use of digital tools.

Lectures will be held face-to-face from October, as long as the situation does not change.

## Development plan

### Module 1: Introduction

- **WEEK 1 & 2**
  - Presentation of the subject, readings and final project
  - Introduction to the autobiographical genre, definitions, and distinctions
  - Autobiographical topics and acts, developing strategies for reading autobiographical genre
  - Commentary of an autobiographical text: *Boy: Tales of Childhood*, Roald Dahl and William Wordsworth's *The Prelude*, Gerald Durrell's: *My Family and Other Animals* and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*
- **WEEK 3 NO CLASSES (local holidays)**

### Module 2: Autobiographical subgenres

- **WEEK 4, 5 & 6**
  - Introduction to selected subgenres and analysis of the selected texts (diaries, travelogues & testimonio)
- **WEEK 7 Tutorials + 1st exam (module 1 + module 2)**

### Module 3: Narratives of exile and diaspora

- **WEEK 8, 9 & 10**
  - Migration, exile, and diaspora in graphic narratives: analysis of the selected texts.
  - Discursive contexts, voice and empathy in narratives of exile.
  - Memoirs from Iran: Commentary of a selected chapter: *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Azar Nafisi & *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi, graphic novel and movie.

### Module 4: Experimental life-writing

- **WEEK 11 & 12**
  - Scriptotherapy & illness narratives
  - Autobiographies in second and third person

- WEEK 13 PROJECTS PRESENTATIONS
- WEEK 14 Tutorials + 2nd exam (module 3 + module 4)
- WEEK 15 Exam revision

## Evaluation

- Test 1: 23%
- Test 2: 27%
- Final project: 25%
  - Part 1: Elaboration of the final project (15%)
  - Part 2: Presentation of the final project (10%)
- Classroom activities: 15%
- Active participation in most class sessions: 10%

### **Assessment Criteria for the Oral Presentation:**

The following criteria will be taken into account, all of them amounting to 20 points:

- The student shows s/he has understood the concepts dealt with in class: up to 5 points
- The student shows capacity to interpret ideas explained in class and is able to apply them to the topic: up to 5 points
- The student can express him/herself fluidly without excessive hesitation, without the need to read from a text: up to 5 points
- The student can describe the topic and its relevance in a clear and coherent way, with an acceptable command of grammar and vocabulary: up to 5 points

Evaluation is continuous. Those students who combine their studies with a full-time job have the right to apply for an alternative evaluation within 5 days from the start of the semester. For more information, please write an email to [academic@lletres.udl.cat](mailto:academic@lletres.udl.cat) or visit the Secretariat of the Faculty of Arts.

**\* 5 basic mistakes in either of the two tests or the written assignment will entail a 4.**

**\*The participation in all activities is mandatory! The minimum mark to continue with the assessment is 4.**

***If academic fraud or spontaneous copying is detected, we will apply the provisions established in the Regulations for the Assessment and Grading of Student Learning in UdL Bachelor's and Master's Degrees***

***This course is evaluated through continuous assessment. Students who combine their studies with a full-time job or a part-time job that coincides with class schedules are entitled to request an alternative assessment within 5 days from the beginning of the semester by either providing a full-time contract or by submitting a written petition to the Dean that explains the reasons for which it is not possible to undertake continuous assessment. For more information, send an email to [lletres.secretariacentre@udl.cat](mailto:lletres.secretariacentre@udl.cat) or speak to the staff at Secretaria de Lletres.***

Alternative assessment will consist in a written activity that will constitute 100% of the final mark

## Bibliography

### **Primary sources:**

(see the development plan)

### **Secondary sources:**

- Anderson, Linda. (1997). *Women and autobiography in the twentieth century*. London: Prentice Hall Harvester Wheatsheaf.
- Cockshut, A. O. J. (1984). *The art of autobiography in the 19th and 20th century England*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press.
- Maftai, Micaela. (2013). *The fiction of autobiography: reading and writing identity*. New York, London: Bloomsbury.
- McLeish Kenneth and Valerie. (1992). *Bloomsbury good reading guide to biography & autobiography*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Nalbantian, Suzanne. (1997) *Aesthetic Autobiography: From Life to art in Marcel Proust, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf and Anaïs Nin*. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Smith, Sidonie and Julia Watson. (2010). *A guide for reading autobiography*. Minneapolis, London: University of Minnesota Press. 2nd ed.
- Spengemann, William C. (1980). *The forms of autobiography*. London: Yale University Press.