



Welcome to Fall 2016 Eng 212/Autobiography @ COCC!

Online CRN: 43579

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Course Description:

Examines diverse modes of autobiographical writing (autobiography, memoir, testimonial, personal blogs, and conversion narrative) as texts that represent the self in society through the writing of memories.

Explores the ways in which writers construct and represent memory and the impact these narratives have on our understanding of the political and cultural context in which they are produced.

Recommended Prerequisites:

Placement in RD 117 and WR 121 (or completion of the latter) would indicate that you have the necessary college entry-level reading and writing skills.

Required Texts:

In addition to several chapters from a variety of autobiographies that will be available in Blackboard, you will read THREE of the following full length memoirs, available at any bookstore.

- Choice #1 First Half of Term:
 - Tobias Wolff, *This Boy's Life: A Memoir*
 - OR
 - Jeannette Walls, *The Glass Castle: A Memoir*
- Choice #2 Middle of Term:
 - Cheryl Strayed, *Wild*
 - OR
 - Ernest Hemingway, *A Moveable Feast*
- Choice #3 End of Term:
 - Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood*
 - OR
 - Art Spiegelmann, *Maus I*

Outcomes for Eng 212

Students will...

1. demonstrate an understanding of the features and genres of autobiography.
2. analyze the roles which argument, rhetoric, fiction, photography, and available evidence play in the composing process of autobiography.
3. raise questions about the truth, factuality, objectivity, and subjectivity of autobiography.
4. analyze how an author's own ideology, social class, religion, and/or sexuality shapes reality in an autobiography.
5. analyze the significance of historical and cultural contexts in autobiography.
6. apply a range of reading strategies to analyze and interpret a variety of literary texts within their historical and literary contexts.

7. use informal and formal writing to analyze and interpret literary works integrating textual evidence following MLA guidelines.

Assignments and Grading: The following assignments are designed to address the outcomes: NOTE: the late penalties are identified below each assignment:

- **Discussion Board Postings (60%)**
 - Discussion board postings require you to answer a specific prompt about the readings: you are graded on how well you answer each prompt (in 300+ words) and how well you respond to your peers. **The postings are meant to help you “practice” or test ideas that you will be asked to develop further on the essay exams, so it’s important that you not only post in the discussion board but also read what your colleagues have posted!**
 - These assignments are worth about 5% EACH. Not a lot, but they do add up, so if you skip them, it will affect your overall grade. If, however, you complete them all, it will help your overall grade AND help you on the midterm and final exams.
 - **Late assignments in this category are accepted up till 72 hours late with a late penalty of one letter grade. After that grace period, late posts and responses are NOT accepted.**
- **Midterm and Final Exams: (20% each for a total of 40%)**
 - You will have a choice of short essay questions that relate to the readings in the first half of the term (midterm) and again for the second half of the term (final), though the final may also include questions related to readings in the first half of the term.
 - **The midterm will be accepted up till 72 hours late with a late penalty of one letter grade. The final will be accepted up till 32 hours late with a late penalty of one letter grade. Neither will be accepted after the late grace period.**

LATE POLICY NOTE:

- Above you will note the late policy for each type of assignment this term. Note: if you do take advantage of the grace periods identified above, I may not be able to review your work right away since the work is late. I will also not be able to provide you with the feedback I provide on work that is submitted on time.

The following Grading Scale will be used in this course:

| | | |
|----|--------|--|
| A | 94-100 | Exceptional |
| A- | 90-93 | Superior |
| B+ | 87-89 | Excellent |
| B | 83-86 | Very good |
| B- | 80-82 | Good |
| C+ | 77-79 | Better than satisfactory |
| C | 70-76 | Satisfactory [Note that there is no C- or D+ grade at COCC] |
| D | 65-69 | Passing [Note that you must earn a C or above for Writing classes at COCC] |
| F | 0-64 | Not passing |

College Policies:

Plagiarism Statement:

Proper citations and documentation of any sources that you quote, paraphrase, and/or summarize in your writing are required whenever you borrow the words, facts, and/or ideas of others. In general, putting others' ideas into your own words still means you are borrowing, and to avoid plagiarism, the source must be cited and documented, both (a) at the point in your essay where there borrowing occurs (parenthetical citations for most academic documentation systems), and (b) in a list of all sources cited given at the end of your essay. **Plagiarism is considered a serious academic violation of intellectual property rights, and will earn your written assignment an automatic "F".**

Students Rights and Responsibilities:

Please read the [Students Rights and Responsibilities](http://www.cocc.edu/Student-Life/Rights_and_Responsibilities/) (http://www.cocc.edu/Student-Life/Rights_and_Responsibilities/) handbook.

ADA Statement:

Any student with a **documented disability** (physical, learning, psychological, vision, hearing) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must inform the College and Stacey as soon as possible. If you require any assistance related to a disability, contact the Disability Services Office located in Boyle Education Center: call **(541) 383-7583** or email **DisabilityServices@cocc.edu** .

COCC Non-Discrimination Policy:

Central Oregon Community College is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. It is the policy of the Central Oregon Community College Board of Directors that there will be no discrimination or harassment on the basis of age, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in any educational programs, activities or employment. Persons having questions about equal opportunity and non-discrimination, please contact Human Resources for referral to the appropriate personnel, 541-383-7236.

Incompletes and Withdrawals:

A request for an incomplete will only be given if the student has completed at least 75% of the coursework. If you cannot finish the class and have not completed at least 75% of the coursework, you should withdraw from the class before the Wednesday of week 10. Withdrawals are the responsibility of the student: I cannot withdraw you from the class after week 1 of the term.

ADVICE FOR THIS ONLINE VERSION OF ENG 212:

If you wait until the day these assignments are due to start and complete them, you will be miserable.
The goal is to start the assignments days earlier, thus the assignments for week 1 should be started on the first day of classes for the term. Often, you are asked to do readings with the written response do the next due date.

Note: Please follow the order of the readings and assignments as they are meant to be read/completed in the order that I list them.

Most of the readings are Word documents saved as .rtf, PDF documents, or Power Point presentations. As part of the orientation to Blackboard and Online Courses you all took, you should know how to open all three types of documents.

Weekly Schedule of Assignments:

Week 1:

DUE BY MONDAY, SEPT. 26TH, 11:59PM:

In order to stay in the class, or on the wait list, please read the following and then follow the instructions in the Discussion Board to see what you need to post. This due date is unique to the first week of class only---it's a way of making sure who wants to stay in the class, and if there is room to let in folks on the wait list.

1. Read the following documents located in the START HERE link in Blackboard:

- Welcome to Eng 212 Online!
- Course Syllabus (policies, readings, due dates, etc)
- Overview of Written Assignment this Term
- Ground Rules for Online Discussions and model posts
- Introductions, Mini Lectures, Discussion boards—Oh My! (or, Stacey's Philosophy)

2. Write and post:

- My advice: type your ALL discussion board posts in a document that you can SAVE. Then, copy and paste it into a Discussion Board post. Go to the Discussion Board to see what I'd like you to do for the first week "attendance" assignment. The first week attendance discussion post is due no later than MONDAY, Sept. 26th, 11:59pm.

Due by Wed, Sept. 28th 11:59pm:

1. Read the following mini-lectures/handouts:

- What is autobiography?
- "A Memoir is not a Status Update" by Dani Shapiro
- From *Reading Autobiography*: "Life Narrative: Definitions and Distinctions" by Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson
- What is the history of Autobiography?
- Memoir Choices this term: How to choose

2. Write and Submit:

- QUIZ on the readings above (open book, untimed)

Due by Sun, Oct. 2nd, 11:59pm:

1. Read the following:
 - “Reading Autobiography” by Prof. Vonwellmonich (<http://faculty-staffpages.alma.edu/~vonwallmenich/260/Autobiography.html>)
 - Autobiography as History (read this BEFORE reading the excerpts below)
 - Read ONE of the following excerpts:
 1. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* (1791) by Benjamin Franklin (pp.72-83)
 2. “Where I Lived, What I Lived For” by Henry David Thoreau (excerpt from *Walden*, 1854)
 3. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845) (read chapters 1, 7 and 10)
 4. “Graduation” (1969) by Maya Angelou (excerpt from *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*)
 2. Write and Post to the Discussion board:
 - Discussion Board Post #1 (see the Discussion Board for instructions)
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Week 2:**Due by Wed, Oct. 5th, 11:59pm:**

1. Write and Post to the Discussion board:
 - Discussion Board Response to someone’s DB Post #1 (see the Discussion Board for instructions)
2. Read:
 - Strategies for Taking Notes
 - Read ONE of the following: Introduction to Tobias Wolfe’s *This Boy’s Life* OR Introduction to *The Glass Castle*
 - *This Boy’s Life* OR *The Glass Castle* (first 75 pages or so)

Due by Sun, Oct. 9th, 11:59pm:

1. Read:
 - *This Boy’s Life* OR *The Glass Castle* (to page 175ish)
2. Write and Post:
 - Discussion board post #2 (go to the discussion board for instructions)

Week 3:**Due by Wed, Oct. 12th, 11:59pm:**

1. Write and Post:
 - Respond to someone’s Discussion Board Post #2 (someone with no responses)
2. Read:
 - *This Boy’s Life* OR *The Glass Castle* (read to page 250ish)

Due by Sun, Oct. 16, 11:59pm

1. Read:
 - Read ONE of the following: Mini Lecture #2 on *This Boy's Life* OR Mini Lecture #2 on *The Glass Castle*
 - *FINISH This Boy's Life or The Glass Castle*
2. Nothing is due to submit tonight

Week 4:

Due by Wed, Oct. 19, 11:59pm

1. Write and post to the Discussion Board
 - Discussion Board Post #3 is due tonight

Due by Sun, Oct. 23, 11:59pm

1. Write and post to the Discussion Board
 - Respond to someone's Discussion Board post #3
2. Read:
 - Advice on doing well on the midterm exam
 - Rubric for the midterm and final short essay portions
 - Midterm exam (available Oct. 20 and due Oct. 26)

Week 5:

Due by Wed, Oct. 26, 11:59pm

1. Write and Submit to the EXAMS link:
 - Midterm Exam

Due by Sun, Oct. 30, 11:59pm

1. Read
 - Varieties of Memoirs
 - "But Enough About Me" by Daniel Mendelsohn

Choose TWO memoirs from TWO different genres (or types), for a total of FOUR memoirs.

- Addiction Memoirs
 - David Shef's "My Addicted Son"
 - Nic Shef's *Tweak*
 - Caroline Knapp's *Drinking: A Love Story*
 - Augusten Burroughs' *Dry*

- Disability Memoirs
 - Helen Keller’s *The Story of My Life*
 - Nancy Mairs’ “On Being a Cripple”
 - Nancy Mairs’ “Disability”
 - Michael Bérubé’s “For Hire: Dedicated Young Man With Downs Syndrome”
- On Reading (Literacy Memoirs)
 - Richard Rodriguez’s “Aria”
 - Sherman Alexie’s “The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me”
 - Azar Nafisi’s *Reading Lolita in Tehran*
 - Richard Wright, excerpt from *Black Boy*
- Food Memoirs
 - Ruth Reichl’s *Tender at the Bone*
 - Elizabeth Gilbert’s *Eat, Pray, Love*
 - Diana Abu-Jaber’s *The Language of Baklava*
 - Chang-Rae Lee’s “Coming Home Again”
- On Writing Memoir
 - Mary McCarthy’s “To the Reader”
 - Annie Dillard’s “To Fashion a Text”
 - Patricia Hempl’s “Memory and Imagination”

Week 6:

Due by Wed, Nov. 2, 11:59pm

1. Write and post to the discussion board:
 - Discussion Board post #4 due

Due by Sun, Nov 6, 11:59pm

1. Write and Post:
 - Respond to another student’s post #4.
2. Read
 - Read ONE of the following: Introduction to *Wild* OR Introduction to *A Moveable Feast*
 - START reading your memoir selection (Strayed or Hemingway) (*aim for at least 50 pages this week*)—**TAKE NOTES!**

Week 7:

Due by Wed, Nov 9, 11:59pm

1. Read:
 - Aim for reading at least to page 125 in your chosen memoir—take notes!
2. Write and post to the discussion board:
 - Optional open discussion board for conversations and questions!

Due by Sun, Nov 13, 11:59pm

1. Read:

- Aim to read to page 220 in your chosen memoir—you want to finish this coming week
- NOTE: the Mini Lectures related to these memoirs are posted in Week 8: you are welcome to read them now, or wait until you have finished your memoir in week 8.

Week 8:

Due by Wed, Nov. 16, 11:59pm

1. Read:

- Finish your chosen memoir (*Wild or AMF*)
- Read ONE of the following: Mini Lecture #2 on *Wild* OR Mini Lecture #2 on *A Moveable Feast*

Due by Sun., Nov 20, 11:59pm:

1. Write and post to the discussion board

- Discussion board post #5 due: see Discussion Board for details

Week 9:

Due by Wed, Nov 23, 11:59pm

1. Write and post to the Discussion Board

- Respond to another student's Discussion Board post #5.

2. Read:

- What is a Graphic Novel?
- Introduction to Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* OR Art Spiegelmann's *Maus I*
- *Persepolis* or *Maus I* (start)---TAKE NOTES

Due by Sun, Nov 27, 11:59pm

1. Read:

- Finish *Persepolis* or *Maus I*
- Mini lecture part II on *Persepolis* or *Maus I*

Week 10:

Due by Wed, Nov 30, 11:59pm

1. Write and Post to the Discussion Board

- Discussion Board Post #6 due: See Discussion Board for Details
- There is NO required response to #6 but do please read what your peers have posted as well as my summary overview of the posts—which should be posted by Dec. 4th.

Due by Sunday, Dec. 4th, 11:59pm

1. Read and begin:

- Final exam: the exam will be made available on Dec. 1st, and it is due Wednesday, Dec. 7^h.

Week 11: FINALS WEEK

Due by Wed, Dec. 7th, Midnight

- Final Exam due: submit to the Exam link in Blackboard