

ENGL 4333.001: Genre: **Life Writing**
Spring 2019
Monday/Wednesday 1-2:20pm
TH 21

Instructor: Dr. Désirée Henderson

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11am-12pm and by appointment

Course Description: This course explores life writing or autobiography. We will focus primarily on two genres, the diary and the letter, in order to examine the motives behind and forms of self-narration. Students will be introduced to theories and methods that define the contemporary study of these genres within the field of autobiographical studies. We will focus primarily on women writers with an emphasis on diverse voices and perspectives in order to explore the intersections between race, gender, sexuality, and nation. This course involves a service learning assignment that gives student the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real world environments.

Required Books: Most of the reading this semester will be provided on Blackboard or online, but at the end of the semester students will be expected to purchase and read 2 books – a memoir and a novel. However, students will be reading 2 of a selection of memoirs and novels, so they should not purchase any books until they know which of these books they are assigned. See the Literature Circle assignment prompt for more information.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Explain and apply prominent theories and methods related to the study of autobiographical literature.
- Make connections between individual life writing practices and the scholarly study of life writing.
- Put into practice the application of knowledge in real world situations.
- Write original and well-informed literary analysis of life writing texts.

Grade Policy/Requirements:

Write Your Life (3) (P/NP)	10%
Literature Circle Role and Report (2) (P/NP)	15%
Service Learning Project	15%
Short Writes (5)	30%
Final Project	30%

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

Descriptions of all major assignments, including grading schemas and rubrics, can be found on the individual assignment prompts on Blackboard. Due dates are indicated on the Reading and Assignment Schedule below. All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Service Learning Requirement: We are partnering with the Mid-Cities Care Corps, which serves senior citizens by providing them with in-home care and support. Working in small groups, students will be meeting with and interviewing MCCC clients in order to write their life stories. This assignment requires students to put in at least 9 volunteer hours outside of class time. For more information see the Service Learning Project prompt on Blackboard.

Pass/No Pass Grading: Some assignments this semester are graded according to a Pass/No Pass schema (labeled P/NP above). Students who successfully complete all components of the assignment guidelines will receive a grade of Pass (95 points). Students who do not successfully complete any component(s) of the assignment guidelines will receive No Pass (0 points).

Attendance Policy: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance.

As the instructor of this section, I have established the following attendance policy:

Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. I will take attendance in every class.

Perfect Attendance	Students who attend every class (have 0 absences and no late arrivals) will have 2 additional points <i>added</i> to their final course grade. Any absences, including excused absences, will exclude the student from these bonus points.	
Allowed Absences	Students are granted 3 unexcused absences during the semester without penalty.	
Unexcused Absences	Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. <i>Points will be deducted from the student's final course grade.</i>	
	# of Unexcused Absences	Points Deducted
	1-3	0
	4	3

	5	5
Excused Absences	<i>DO NOT claim excused absences until you have exceeded your 3 allowed absences.</i> In order to claim an excused absence, please write Dr. H an email that clearly identifies the date(s) you were absent. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.	
Excessive Absences	Excessive Absences (6 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.	

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Late Policy: Short Writes and the Final Project will be accepted late, with a grade penalty as spelled out in the grading rubric of each assignment. Assignments graded Pass/No Pass are not accepted late, as on-time submission is one of the criteria for receiving a Passing grade.

Extra Credit: I offer Extra Credit to students who attend specific on-campus events. I will announce these events in class and on Blackboard. For details, see the “Extra Credit Policy” document on Blackboard.

Technology in the Classroom Policy: Please be respectful about your technology use in the classroom. I encourage you to put laptops, tablets, e-book readers, and/or phones out of sight, unless you are using them for class purposes. I reserve the right to ask students to put away these devices, which I will do if we are completing work for which access to technology is neither useful nor beneficial, or if technology use is causing distraction to the student or to the class as a whole.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is

the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting: The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) <http://www.uta.edu/disability/> or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <http://www.uta.edu/caps/> or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Michelle Willbanks, Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-4585 or titleix@uta.edu

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>. Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials <http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is

required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located down the hallway and up the stairs. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/studentsuccess/success-programs/programs/resource-hotline.php>

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers FREE tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at <http://www.uta.edu/IDEAS>, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center offers FREE tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at <https://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services

for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor **Academic Plaza** offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

Library & Research Assistance: University-level research requires university-level sources. Appropriate sources include scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, and credible news magazines and newspapers. The UTA Library <http://library.uta.edu/> offers a plethora of resources and subject specialists to help you select and locate appropriate sources. Find library staff at the Service Zone on the first floor of the UTA Central Library, by phone at (817) 272-3395, by text at (817) 727-8395, email at AskUs@uta.edu, or the chat widget on the library's homepage, <http://library.uta.edu/>. For a list of useful guides to help you start your research, visit: <http://libguides.uta.edu/>.

Your librarian is Diane Shepelwich, dianec@uta.edu. Diane is available through email, individual or group meetings, or phone appointments. If you need help getting started with your research or course assignment or have questions along the way, please contact Diane for personalized research assistance.

<p>Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381</p>

ENG 4333 Reading and Assignment Schedule

All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

All reading is available on Blackboard unless an online link is provided, and excluding the novels and memoirs assigned at the end of the semester.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
1/14	Introduction to Life Writing		
1/16	What is a Diary?	Selection of Diaries (handout)	
1/21	MLK Holiday – Class canceled		
1/23	Why Write Diaries?	Henderson, Chapter 6 and “Are Diaries Private?” hooks, “Writing from the Darkness”	
1/28	Diaries	Henderson, Chapter 3 Van Dyke diary (Read Intro and Book 2)	Write Your Life 1
1/30	Introduction to Service Learning Project & MCCC Volunteer Training		
2/4	Diaries	Van Dyke diary (Read selections from Books 3 & 8)	Short Write 1
2/6	Diaries	Henderson, Chapter 2 Students will be assigned 1 of the following: 1) Whitman, Memoranda (intro, link) 2) Davis diary (link) 3) Stevens diary (on Blackboard and link) 4) Brisbee diary (link)	Service Learning: Introductory Letter

2/11	Diaries	2 nd of assigned diaries listed above	
2/13	Service Learning Workshop: Conducting interviews		Short Write 2
2/18	Diary Fiction	Henderson, Chapter 4 Williams, "Meditations on History"	
2/20	Diary Fiction	Saunders, "Simplica Girls" Simpson, "Diary of an Interesting Year" (link)	
2/25	What is a Letter?	Selection of Letters	Short Write 3
2/27	Letters	John and Abigail Adams letters (link) Click on "Letters during Continental Congress" Read the letters between 16-18 March 1776 and 14 April 1776 (9 letters)	
3/4	Letters	Primus and Brown letters	
3/6	Service Learning Workshop: The Biographical Sketch	Reading TBA	Write Your Life 2
3/11 and 3/13	Spring Break – classes canceled		
3/18	Epistolary Fiction	Munro, "A Wilderness Station"	Short Write 4
3/20	Epistolary Fiction	Godwin, "False Lights" Carson, "Peter's Buddies"	
3/25	Service Learning Workshop: Writing Biography		Short Write 5

3/27	Literature Circle 1	Groups will read one of the following (see Literature Circle assignment prompt for more information): 1) Earl, <i>My Mad Fat Diary</i> 2) Julavits, <i>The Folded Clock</i> 3) Li, <i>Dear Friend</i> 4) Yamashita, <i>Letters to Memory</i>	*Roles will be assigned in class. Questioner 1 Connector
4/1	Literature Circle 1	Reading cont.	Close Reader Researcher 1
4/3	Literature Circle 1	Reading cont.	Researcher 2 Questioner 2
4/8	Literature Circle 1	Reading cont.	
4/10	Literature Circle 2	Groups will read one of the following: 1) Baker, <i>The Incarnations</i> 2) Guo, <i>A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers</i> 2) Ozeki, <i>A Tale for the Time Being</i> 4) Quintero, <i>Gabi, A Girl in Pieces</i>	Questioner 1 Connector
4/15	Literature Circle 2	Reading cont.	Connector 1 Researcher 2
4/17	Literature Circle 2	Reading cont.	Researcher 2 Questioner 2
4/22	Literature Circle 2	Reading cont.	
4/24	Writing Workshop 1		
4/29	Writing Workshop 2		Service Learning Life Stories, Reflection

			Papers, & Peer Evaluations
5/1	Last Day of Class: Service Learning Discussion and Reflection		Write Your Life 3
			Final Project Due Wednesday May 8 by midnight