

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Life Writing	Level: 4	Credit Value: 20
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Module code: HUM428	Cost Centre: GAHN	JACS3 code: Q323
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered: 1	With effect from: September 2014
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Office use only: To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: July 2014 Date revised: - Version no: 1
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Existing/New: new	Title of module being replaced (if any): N/A
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Originating Academic Department: Creative Industries	Module Leader: Dr Deniz Baker
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Module duration (total hours): 200	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate): Core for English and Optional for all other programmes
Scheduled learning & teaching hours: 60	
Independent study hours: 140	
Placement hours: 0	

Programme(s) in which to be offered: BA (Hons) English BA (Hons) English & Creative Writing BA (Hons) English and History	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): None
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Module Aims:

- Recognise the characteristics of an autobiographical and biographical text as well as literary fiction which engages with historical characters.
- Identify the processes and differences involved in the activity of literary first- and third-person narration.
- Explore the often problematic issues inherent in any attempt to portray historical figures artistically.
- Understand key concepts underpinning autobiographical and biographical writing.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1. Recognize and describe the differences between autobiographical and biographical writing. (KS 1,3,4,5)
2. Use appropriate terminology and express understanding of concepts differentiating autobiographical and biographical texts. (KS 1,3,4,5)
3. Explain how writers use narrative strategies to present the 'truth' of the stories/ characters. (KS 1,3,4,5)
4. Summarize concepts such as 'truth', 'fact' and 'subjectivity'. (KS 1,5)

Key skills (KS) for employability

1. *Written, oral and media communication skills*
2. *Leadership, team working and networking skills*
3. *Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills*
4. *Information technology skills and digital literacy*
5. *Information management skills*
6. *Research skills*
7. *Intercultural and sustainability skills*
8. *Career management skills*
9. *Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)*
10. *Numeracy*

Assessment:

This module will be assessed by a portfolio of work comprising a number of different elements designed to assess each of the 4 learning outcomes specified. Typically the assessment would comprise two short commentaries and critical readings of different kinds of text studied plus a longer and more analytical engagement with three of the course texts.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1,2,3,4	Portfolio	100%		4000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

This module is delivered in blocks of two, two-hour sessions. The first takes the form of an informal, interactive lecture led by the tutor and key concepts and terminology will be introduced. The second takes the form of a seminar in which there will be student-led discussion of texts, topics and selected secondary critical material. Individual study time will be used for the independent reading of material and the preparation of seminar activities

Indicative Syllabus outline:

- Truth or fiction? Auto/ biography and narrative. The diversity of life stories.
- Analysing life stories.
- Life histories as 'data'.
- Issues of truth, value and memory.
- Identity and the 'I' in autobiography; - Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges are not the Only Fruit*; Gertrude Stein *The Autobiography of Alice B Toklas*.
- History and Biography - David Starkey, *Elizabeth*.
- Writing and the subject in biography - Peter Ackroyd, *Dickens*; Michael Holroyd, *Augustus John*.
- The narrative of the Romantic genius (mad, bad and dangerous to know): Shaffer's *Amadeus*.
- Auto/ Biography and Politics: What makes the subject of biography? Social and historical forces vs. the Individual, Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

Bibliography:

Indicative reading:

Batchelor, J. *The Art of Literary Biography* (OUP, 1995)

Boldrini, L. *Autobiographies of Others* (London: Routledge, 2012)

Eakin, P.J. *Living Autobiographically: How We Create Identity in Narrative* (Ithaca NY: Cornell UP, 2008)

Egan, S. *Mirror Talk: Genres of Crisis in Contemporary Autobiography* (North Carolina UNCP, 1999)

Huddart, D. *Postcolonial Theory and Autobiography*, (London: Routledge, 2008)

Smith, S. & J.Watson. *Reading Autobiography: A Guide for Interpreting Life Narratives* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001)