

B.A. III APC Semester VI

Course: IV

Title of the Course: Life Writing

Course Code:

Credits: 04

Marks: 100

Course	L	Cr	P/T	D	TP	TW	T
Life Writing	4	4	-	2.30	75	25	100

Objectives

- i. To consider difference between fiction and non-fiction
- ii. To study genre theory on fiction & autobiography
- iii. To understand the tradition & characteristics of autobiography
- iv. To consider overarching themes & vast richness of women's life writings
- v. To understand how women's autobiographical writings contribute to the study of gender, race, class, sexuality and ethnicity
- vi. To be able to experience and reflect upon the narrative process through the analysis of the prescribed text

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- i. Demonstrate an understanding of the different intellectual and cultural contexts of life writing
- ii. Demonstrate an understanding of basic ideas and concepts
- iii. Critically analyze texts from different perspectives
- iv. Effectively communicate ideas related to the paper during class and group activities

Unit	Topic and Details	No. of teaching hours assigned	Weightage in %
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on autobiographical writings and their history • Response to autobiographies • Whether autobiographies can be considered as a literary genre • Exploring ways in which the self is presented, shaped and even institutionalized by different literary and narrative forms probing the relationship between truth and fiction self and society. • Reflecting on issues like such as the working of memory and the tension between invention and disclosure. • Relation between the text, the historical period, and the cultural environment in which they were produced. • Autobiography as Resistance • Autobiography as Rewriting history • Feminism: Empowerment of women & Autobiography. <p>These issues can be explored through the following essays.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kadar Marlene. "Coming to Terms: Life Writing - From Genre to Critical Practice". pp. 3 – 16. <i>Essays on Life Writing: From Genre to Critical Practice</i>, edited by Marlene Kadar. University of Toronto Press, 1992 2. "Introduction: Life Histories in India". pp. 1- 28. <i>Telling lives in India: Biography, Autobiography and Life History</i>, edited by David Arnold & Stuart Blackburn. Indiana University Press, 2004. 3. Smith, Sidonie and Julia Watson. "Introduction: Situating Subjectivity in Women's Autobiographical Practice". <i>Women, Autobiography, Theory: A Reader</i>, edited by Sidonie Smith, Julia Watson. The University of Wisconsin Press, 1998. 4. Kaviraj, Sudipta. "The Invention of Private Life: A Reading of Sibnath Sastri's Autobiography". <i>Telling lives in India: Biography, Autobiography and Life History</i>, edited by David Arnold & Stuart Blackburn. Indiana University Press, 2004. 	25	40%

2	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> . Anne Frank (1952) Fingerprint Publishing/Gen press	20	30%
3	<i>The Revenue Stamp: An Autobiography</i> Amrita Pritam (1976)	20	30%

Evaluation Scheme:

Internal Examination 25 marks

1. Short notes on Unit I (2 out of 3)

7+7+6 10 marks

2. Assignment on any one of the prescribed texts 15 marks

External Examination 75 marks

Short Notes on Unit I 20 marks

Reference to context (2 out of 3) Units 2 and 3 15 marks

Essay type questions (2 out of 3) Unit 2 20 marks

Essay type questions (2 out of 3) Unit 3 20 marks

Recommended Readings:

Essays on Life Writing: From Genre to Critical Practice, edited by Marlene Kadar. University of Toronto Press, 1992.

Autobiography and Life History, edited by David Arnold & Stuart Blackburn. Indiana University Press, 2004.

Women, Autobiography, Theory: A Reader, edited by Sidonie Smith, Julia Watson. The University of Wisconsin Press, 1998.

Telling Lives in India: Biography, Autobiography and Life History, edited by David Arnold & Stuart Blackburn. Indiana University Press, 2004.

Leader, Zachary, editor. *On Life-writing*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Moore-Gilbert, Bart. *Postcolonial life-writing: culture, politics, and self-representation*. Routledge, 2009.