

# Life Stories: Telling Tales and Keeping Secrets in Auto/Biographical Writing

## Module Information

2022.01, Approved

### Summary Information

Module Code	5125ENGL
Formal Module Title	Life Stories: Telling Tales and Keeping Secrets in Auto/Biographical Writing
Owning School	Humanities and Social Science
Career	Undergraduate
Credits	20
Academic level	FHEQ Level 5
Grading Schema	40

### Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Humanities and Social Science

### Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	20
Workshop	2

### Module Offering(s)

Display Name	Location	Start Month	Duration Number Duration Unit
			12 Weeks

### Aims and Outcomes

Aims	1. To introduce students to the diversity of auto/biographical writing 2. To equip students with the critical vocabulary and analytical tools to explore and analyse modern life-writing 3. To understand key critical topics relating to life-writing, including the relations of subjectivity and form; the intersections of gender, race, class and embodiment; the role of memory and nostalgia; narrative strategies of confession and secrecy.4. To explore these questions in an interdisciplinary context with reference to a wide range of literary, cultural and visual texts.
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**After completing the module the student should be able to:**

### Learning Outcomes

Code	Number	Description
MLO1	1	Analyse and evaluate a diverse range of auto/biographical narratives using an appropriate critical vocabulary
MLO2	2	Apply skills of close reading and theoretical/contextual analysis in order to interpret a broad and diverse range of life-writing
MLO3	3	Demonstrate an awareness of narrative structures and the complexities of representing biographical material

### Module Content

Outline Syllabus	An example of a syllabus of core texts would be: Virginia Woolf, selections from Moments of Being Jackie Kay, Red Dust Road Alison Bechdel, Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic Eva Hoffman, Lost in Translation Jenny Diski, Skating to Antarctica Asif Kapadia, dir., Amy (documentary film)
Module Overview	The aim of this module is to introduce you to the diversity of auto/biographical writing. It will equip you with the critical vocabulary and analytical tools to explore and analyse modern life-writing. You will understand key critical topics relating to life-writing, including the relations of subjectivity and form; the intersections of gender, race, class and embodiment; the role of memory and nostalgia; narrative strategies of confession and secrecy.
Additional Information	This second year course introduces students to a diverse range of auto/biographical narratives, including memoirs, oral history, a psychoanalytical case-study, a graphic novel, a biographical film, personal essays, and a novel-in-verse. Focusing on the formal and generic qualities of a variety of innovative modes of life writing, the course engages thematically with the strategies of disclosure and secrecy that are the hallmark of these auto/biographical texts. The course complements existing modules on the curriculum that address writing and identity (Cultures of Childhood, Adolescence and Writing, Writing the Real) and acts as a pathway for the Level 6 option on working-class autobiography, Writing Lives.

### Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Module Learning Outcome Mapping
Reflection	1500 Word Critical Reflection	30	0	MLO2
Essay	2500 Word Essay	70	0	MLO1, MLO3

### Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Emily Cuming	Yes	N/A
Emily Cuming	Yes	N/A

**Partner Module Team**

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
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