

Course Abstract

If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Services in Edison Hall Room 100, 732.906.2546.

To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which is published in the college catalog and website.

Course ID and Name: ENG 249: Biography and Autobiography

Department: English

Chairperson or Course Coordinator: Michael Nester

Office Location: RH 236

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Prerequisites: ENG 122 or permission of the department chairperson

Co-requisites:

An examination—through letters, memoirs, journals, autobiography, and biography—of some of the seminal figures of our time. Through discussion and written response, the impact of cultural, ethnic, economic, and political factors on the individual and the expression of such influences as they emerge in the writings will be analyzed. The readings will focus on the individuals who represent the following: artists (art, dance, music, film), authors/playwrights/poets, scientists, politicians/statesmen, religious/philosophical figures.

General Education Status: Humanities

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Lab Hours: 0

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the program or course, students will be able to:

1. Write critical papers demonstrating the student's ability to interpret and analyze literature.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the function of literary devices.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of various biographical forms, including the historical, critical and personal memoir.
4. Identify and distinguish major literary developments and movements that influence a given piece of literature.

Course Content Areas:

1. **Research and writing:** Fundamentals of critical judgment, literary devices and forms, figurative language, and intellectual background.

2. Reading: Various works by and about writers from various times, places and cultures.

3. Lecture/Discussion:

- a. Discussion of literary critical principles, terminology and analysis.
- b. Instruction in critical response techniques and classroom discussion of the history, conventions, and dimensions—psychological, intellectual, social and aesthetic—of biographies and autobiographies.