

Sec. 001 Tues. & Thurs. 9:30-10:45 Dr. Lynne Adrian T.A. Ms. Maggie Phillips

Course Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for AMS 205. Completion of the freshman composition requirement is HIGHLY recommended.

Course Description and Purposes:

This course focuses on individual American lives as they are expressed and recreated in autobiographical writings. We will use these writings to explore the importance of factors such as ethnicity, gender, class, and region in creating the richness and diversity of the American experience. We will read about a wide variety of people to reflect this richness and diversity. In the process of reflecting on these lives, and I hope our own lives, we will confront and consider questions such as how and why individuals fit into their culture, how and why they sometimes stand apart from it, and what success means in our culture. The class should also generate further thought about autobiographies as cultural artifacts, America as a nation, the kinds of lives that Americans have led, and the kinds of ideas which have motivated both our national and personal development. I hope that the class will give you both the "taste" for autobiography and the tools to examine it critically in the future.

Learning Outcome:

At the completion of AMS 205, students will be expected:

To acquire an appreciation of the diversity of American identities and experiences, particularly with respect to issues of race, class, and gender.

To understand autobiographies as cultural artifacts.

To engage critically with autobiographies as cultural artifacts and to appreciate the interactions between individual choices and cultural conditions.

Required Texts:

The books for this course are listed below in the order in which they will be read. Used copies of most of the books should be available at the Alabama Book Store.

1. Sylvia Plath, The Bell Jar.
2. Maya Angelou, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

3. Malcolm X and Alex Haley, The Autobiography of Malcolm X.
4. Mary Crow Dog, Lakota Woman.
5. Kim Chernin, In My Mother's House: A Daughter's Story.
6. Jade Snow Wong, Fifth Chinese Daughter
7. Abraham Verghese, My Own Country: A Doctor's Story.

Class Format:

This class will follow a lecture/discussion format, with the professor giving "mini-lectures" as needed to provide additional information about the works being discussed, or necessary background to them. Because of the emphasis on discussion **STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE COMPLETED ALL READING ASSIGNMENTS BEFORE COMING TO THE CLASS IN WHICH THEY ARE TO BE DISCUSSED**. Remember, this means reading actively, thinking about the material, relating it to other things you have read, forming an opinion, drawing conclusions, **questioning** the author. As you read, you should also jot down **questions** you have about the material and bring them to class to use in discussion. Consult the attached class schedule for the specific reading assignments.

Class Requirements:

Your primary responsibilities are to **attend** class, **read the books**, and **participate** in class discussions. Because of the emphasis placed on discussion, class participation, including discussion as well as attendance, will be a factor in the final grade. **In order to measure your readiness to discuss in class, there will be reading quizzes on 20 of the 24 discussion days. You may drop the lowest five grades. No quizzes will be made up—absences will need to count as one of your dropped grades.**

There will also be three essay tests on the readings during the course of the semester, an autobiographical essay, and a comprehensive final examination. **All make-up tests will be given Tuesday, Nov. 25, at 3:30 p.m. in 103 Ten Hour. If you miss a test, you must make it up on Nov. 25.**

Autobiographical Fragment:

This will be your only out-of-class writing assignment. It should be 5-7 double-spaced typed pages in length and may be turned in **any time before 4:00 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5**. The thought behind this is the hardest part of the assignment, so don't let it go and get caught in the end of semester rush. We will discuss this in class, and you may talk with me and/or your teaching assistant if you have any questions; but do so **before Thanksgiving!**

Evaluation: Your final grade will be computed in the following manner:

Test I	15%
Test II	15%
Test III	15%
Autobiographical Essay	15%
Class Participation	20%
Final Examination	20%

Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the academic needs of students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are responsible for informing the professor of their needs for accommodations at the beginning of the semester. To request disability accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 348-4285. After initial arrangements are made with that office, contact your professor.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

All acts of dishonesty in any work constitute academic misconduct. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

If at any time you have questions about your performance, grading, or any other aspect of the course, please see your instructor. You should also feel free to consult with your teaching assistant, Ms. Maggie Phillips. You may reach us at these addresses:

Dr. Lynne Adrian 106E tenHoor Tues & Thurs 11-Noon; Wed. 1:00-2:00 and by appt. 348-9762 ladrian@tenhour.as.ua.edu or Adrian_etc@yahoo.com
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Maggie Phillips
116 tenHoor
Wed. & Fri. 2:00-3:00 and
By appointment
348-2876
phill011@bama.ua.edu

CLASS SCHEDULE

Thurs. Aug. 21	Introduction and expectations
Tues., Aug 26	Plath, pp. 1-91
Thurs., Aug 28	Plath, pp. 92-200
Tues. Sept. 1	Angelou, chapters 1-15
Thurs., Sept 4	Angelou, chapters 16-25

Tues., Sept 9	Angelou, chapters 26-35
Thurs., Sept 11	Test 1
Tues., Sept. 16	Malcolm X, chapters 1-6
Thurs., Sept 18	Malcolm X, chapters 7-10
Tues. Sept. 23	Malcolm X, chapters 11-14
Thurs., Sept. 25	Malcolm X, chapters 15-18
Tues. Sept. 30	Malcolm X, chapters 19--epilogue
Thurs., Oct. 2	Chernin, Part I
Tues. Oct. 7	Chernin, Part II
Thurs., Oct 9	Chernin, Part III and forward
Tues., Oct 14	Test 2
Thurs., Oct. 16	Midterm class evaluations
Tues. Oct. 21	Crow Dog, pp. 1-91
Thurs., Oct. 23	Crow Dog, pp. 92-169
Tues., Oct. 28	Crow Dog, pp. 170--end
Thurs., Oct. 30	workshop autobiographical essays
Tues., Nov. 4	Wong, vii- 96
Thurs., Nov. 6	Wong, 97-173
Tues., Nov. 11	Wong, 174-end
Thurs., Nov. 13	Test 3
Tues., Nov. 18	Verghese, pp. 1-106
Thurs., Nov. 20	Verghese, pp. 107-199
Tues Nov. 25	Verghese, pp. 200-310
Thurs., Nov. 27	<u>OFFICIAL AMS MAKE-UP DAY 3:30 IN 103 tenHoor</u> THANKSGIVING VACATION
Tues., Dec. 2	Verghese, pp. 311—end
Thurs., Dec. 4	Review and final class evaluations
Friday, Dec. 5	Autobiographical essays due in 101 mailbox, no later than 4 pm

Thursday, December 11, 8:00-10:30 FINAL EXAM

