Syllabus

Autobiographies in Western Culture - 19305

Last update 25-08-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: general & compar. literature

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Gur Zak

Coordinator Email: gur.zak@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Sunday 15-16

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Gur Zak
Course/Module description:
Since classical antiquity, autobiographical writing has been considered as a crucial vehicle of self-knowledge and self-cultivation. At the same time, autobiographical writing has been treated with considerable suspicion, mainly due to doubts about its ability to truly capture and represent lived experience. The aim of this course will be to trace the major developments in the genre of autobiography from late antiquity to the Romantic era. It shall focus on the various forms of autobiographical writing that developed in the course of this long period and the way in which the tension delineated above is reflected in the autobiographies themselves. Particular attention will be given to the relationship between gender and autobiography in Western culture. Among the authors we shall focus on are: Ovid, Augustine, Abelard, Guibert of Nogent, Dante, Petrarch, Margery Kempe, Christine de Pisan, Montaigne, Vico, and Rousseau.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
  - Demonstrate in depth knowledge of the theoretical issues related to the genre of autobiography.
  - Demonstrate in depth acquaintance with the development of the genre of autobiography from late antiquity to the Romantic era.
  - Offer critical and penetrative analysis of autobiographical texts.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:
  First term:
  2. Autobiography and Self-Cultivation in Antiquity

4. Autobiography and/as Castration: Abelard

5. The Self in Society: Guibert


8. The Collapse of the Narrative Self: St. Francis

9. Women and Autobiography I: Marjorie Kempe

10. Women and Autobiography II: Christine de Pisan

11. Poetic Autobiography: Dante

12. Poetic Autobiography: Petrarch


Required Reading:
   Georges Gusdorf, "Conditions and Limits of Autobiography", in Olney, 28-47
   Michael Sprinker, "Fictions of Self: The End of Autobiography", in Olney, 321-342

2. Michel Foucault, "Self Writing", in Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth, 207-222
   Ovid, Poems of Exile, Selections
   Seneca, Moral Letters to Lucilius, Selections

3: 
   Augustinus, וידויים, תרגום אביעד קליינברג, ספרוים 1-4, 8
   Stephen Spender, "Confessions and Autobiography", in Olney, 115-122

4: 
   פייר אבלאר, תולדות האסונות, תרגום שולמית שחר
   אביעד קליינברג, "לא ידענו מה הוא: שלוש אוטוביוגרפיות מימי הביניים", אלפיס 13 (1996): 44-64
5:  
Gibert, "על חיות", בחרון גל החזיר בשני קולות, תרגום שולמית שחר, ספר ראשון  
S. Lerer, "Transgressio studii: Writing and Sexuality in Guibert de Nogent", Stanford  
French Review 14 (1990): 243-266

6:  
יהודה הרמן, "חיבור קצף", בחרון גל החזיר בשני קולות, תרגום שולמית שחר  
K. F. Morrison, Conversion and Text, 39-75

7:  
Guigo I, Meditations, Selections  
Brian Stock, After Augustine, 52-70

8:  
Thomas of Celano, Life of St. Francis, Selections  
אביעד קליינברג, רגל החזיר של האח ג'ינפרו

9:  
Margery Kempe, The Book of Margery Kempe, trans. Windeatt, 33-73  
Kate Greenspan, "Autobiography and Medieval Women's Spiritual Autobiography", in Gender and Text in the Later Middle Ages, ed. Jane Chance

10:  
קריסטי דו פיטו, ספר החזיר, תרגום שולמית שחר, 125-170

11:  
Dante, La vita nuova, Selections  

12:  
Petrarch, Rime sparse, trans. Durling, Selections

13:  
Petrarch, Familiar Letters, Selections  
Alberti, Vita  

Additional Reading Material:
Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 5 %
Participation in Tutorials 5 %
Project work 80 %
Assignments 10 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: