



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
English

Syllabus

Negotiating the autobiographical I: American women's autobiographies 1968-2020

Course Code:	ENAL06
Course Title:	Negotiating the autobiographical I: American women's autobiographies 1968-2020 <i>Det självbiografiska jaget under förhandling: amerikanska kvinnors självbiografier 1968-2020</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
ENA (English)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2020-12-16, and is valid from the Spring semester 2021 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits, including at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level in one of the main fields of study English, Comparative Literature, or Film Studies, and upper secondary level English 6 or B, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. analyse and interpret representations of the self in autobiographical texts using the theories, concepts, and methods of literary studies,

2. consider aspects of race, gender, class, sexuality, history, and culture in the analysis of autobiographical texts,
3. discuss and critically evaluate scholarly articles on literature and apply them in the analysis of primary sources, and
4. express themselves well in English in terms of style and structure and present convincing analyses.

Content

The course introduces autobiography as a complex and multidimensional genre which is often organised around an elusive "I" at the centre. The course takes as its point of departure a number of more or less conventional or experimental autobiographies written and published by American women between 1968 and 2020 to study autobiographical strategies and gestures; how the "I" is negotiated into being, transformed, and re-negotiated in relation to various cultural and societal contexts and norms; the distinction between reality and fiction; intertextuality and intersectionality; and how the autobiographical text can be engaged as a basis for discussions about race, gender, class, sexuality, culture, and history.

Instruction is in the form of seminars. In preparation for seminars, students read a number of articles relevant to the course content and apply them in analysis of primary sources.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-4 are assessed on the basis of individual written and oral assignments.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.