

Terri Beth Miller
102 Inquiry Course Description

Title: “Writing the Self”

How do we tell the stories of our lives? How do we live the stories that are told to us? Progressing from the study of autobiography to memoir to autobiographical fiction, this course will examine the human impulse to “write the self,” and will explore the impact of these self-narratives on the social world into which they come. The course will center upon acts of self-narrative at moments of (personal and public) crisis and will derive its focus from, among others, illness narratives, Holocaust literatures, and postcolonial political fiction. Primary readings for this course are Audre Lorde’s *The Cancer Journals*, Lucy Grealy’s *Autobiography of a Face*, Elie Wiesel’s *Night*, Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior*, and Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*.