

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

ENGL 213: AUTOBIOGRAPHY

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 213 Autobiography

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2017

D. **Effective Term: Fall 2018**

E. Sponsoring Department: English

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: None
 Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Susan Arvay susan.arvay@raritanval.edu; Patrice Marks patrice.marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENGL 111 English Composition I. This course deals with the genre of autobiography. Students will read a selection of autobiographies and works that may be infused with an autobiographical perspective. The approach is interdisciplinary, uniting literary study with historical and cultural perspectives that will include ways in which an author's life, time period, and culture are integrated into her or his writing.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. Autobiography is an important literary genre and is a course typically featured in college English programs. It is part of a recognized foundation for students who major in English or other areas of the Liberal Arts or Humanities.

- B. This course does not have a Lab component
- C. This course generally transfers as an English Literature or Humanities general education course

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Humanities/English Literature
- C. This course meets a Category B elective requirement in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Introduction to the genre of autobiography, including approaches and history.
- B. Types of autobiography: Examples include spiritual autobiography, captivity narratives, autobiography in fiction and poetry, and graphic autobiographical works.
- C. A study of autobiographical texts by diverse writers from different periods.
- D. Ways to read, interpret and write about autobiographies.

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze autobiographical texts for discussion and in written work. (GE-NJ 1, *)
2. Identify the historical, cultural and artistic implications of various autobiographies. (GE- NJ 6, 7, 8, *)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the genre of autobiography, including various approaches and its history.
2. Interpret autobiographical texts for discussion and in writing.
3. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in discussion and in writing.
4. Compare different approaches to autobiography as a genre.
5. Examine autobiographies not only as literature but also as products of their historical time and cultural values.

(*Embedded critical thinking)

C. Assessment Instruments

1. analytical essays

2. student presentations
3. exams
4. journals
5. response essays
6. portfolios
7. group projects

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays and/or response papers that communicate effectively in standard English, with attention to grammar, mechanics and finer points of style
- B. presentations
- C. exams
- D. informal writing
- E. group projects
- F. preparation for and participation in class

This course may include the following modes of teaching:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. computer-assisted instruction
- D. guest speakers
- E. student oral presentations
- F. student collaboration
- G. independent study

VIII. Texts and Materials

Samples of specific texts include *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*; Booker T. Washington's *Up from Slavery*; *I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*; Mary Karr's *The Liar's Club*; Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior*; Tobias Wolff's *This Boy's Life*; Mary Rowlandson's captivity narrative; *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*; Mary Crow Dog's *Lakota Woman*; Edwidge Danticat's *Brother, I'm Dying*; and Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*.

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

Students will need to be able to access the library's databases and other library resources.

X. Honors Options

There is no Honors Option for this course