

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LETTERS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SYLLABUS

Title of the Course: İED 381 (01) Types of Non-fictional Narrative

Year and Term: 2014-2015 Fall

Class Hours and Days: 13:00-15:45 Monday – B2/203

I. Aim of the Course: The course aims to introduce and study in detail some major forms of non-fictional narratives. To this end, it will introduce non-fiction as a literary form and will use subgenres of non-fictional narratives such as autobiography, biography, memoir, diary, letter, travel writing and essay for critical analysis and discussion. Thus, it is expected that the students will be able to acquire a working knowledge of these types of non-fiction, compare and contrast fictional and non-fictional narratives and exemplify them. Furthermore, it is expected that the students will get interested in the real-life experiences that are embedded in certain political, social, personal, economic, cultural and ideological realities of the times when they were written down. As a result, the students will also be expected to discover the interconnection between literature and life (economics, history, politics, culture, art, geography, diplomacy, psychology, etc.). The aim is to broaden the students' understanding and appreciation of literature drawing attention to non-fictional narratives which will be analysed with particular reference to the literary features such as form, style and content.

II. Course Outline:

Week I (22.09.2014): Introduction to the course with its aims and requirements. Discussion of the difference between fact and fiction, the basic features of the fictional and non-fictional narratives, the nature of non-fiction, factuality and fictionality. Introduction to biography – explanation of basic features

Week II (29.09.2014): Biography continued
Samuel Johnson, *Rambler* No: 60 (on Biography)
Plutarch, from *Lives*: "Caesar"
Suetonius, from *Lives of the Caesars*: "The Deified Julius"

Week III (06.10.2014): BAYRAM HOLIDAY (There will be a make-up)

Week IV (13.10.2014): Autobiography – discussion of basic features, comments on literary features, comments on self-portrayal and diction, self-introspection, contextual relevance
Margery Kempe, from *The Book of Margery Kempe*
John Stuart Mill, from *Autobiography*

Week V (20.10.2014): Autobiography continued
Benjamin Franklin, from *Autobiography*
Theodore Roosevelt, from *Theodore Roosevelt: An Autobiography*

Week VI (27.10.2014): Midterm I

Week VII (3.10.2014): Diary and Memoir – a theoretical introduction, discussion of historicity and factuality
Samuel Pepy, from *Samuel Pepy's Diary*, "The Great Fire"
Virginia Woolf, from *Diary*

Week VIII (10.10.2014): Diary continued
Anne Frank, from *The Diary of a Young Girl*: "Waiting in Darkness"
Sigfried Sassoon, from *Diaries*

Week IX (17.10.2014): Letter – a study of generic characteristics of letter writing, comments on contextualization
Cicero, from *Letters*
Sir Philip Sidney, "A Letter Written By Sir Philip Sidney to Queen Elizabeth, Touching Her Marriage with Monsieur"

Week X (24.10.2014): Letter continued
Lord Byron, from *Letters*
T. E. Lawrence, from *Letters*

Week XI (01.12.2014): Travel Writing – a theoretical discussion, discussion of the impact of tone and diction
Sir John Mandeville, from *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville*
Sir Walter Raleigh, from *The Discovery of Guiana*

Week XII (08.12.2014) Midterm II

Week XIII (15.12.2014): Travel writing continued
Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, from *Turkish Embassy Letters*

Week XIV (22.12.2014): Essay – a theoretical introduction, discussion of the impact of style and form
John Locke, from *The Second Treatise of Civil Government*, “Of Property”
Mary Wollstone Craft, from “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman”

Week XV (29.12.2014): Essay continued
Bertrand Russell, “On Youthful Cynicism”
Martin Luther King, “I have a dream”
Overall revision of the texts

- III. **Textbooks:** The primary materials will be provided by the instructor as a course-pack, but the students are expected to conduct research at Hacettepe, Bilkent and METU libraries for secondary materials.

Suggested Reading List:

- Barton, David, and Nigel Hall. *Letter Writing as a Social Practice*. Philadelphia, PA: John Benjamins, 1999. Print.
- Blanton, Casey. *Travel Writing: The Self and the World*. New York and London: Routledge, 2002. Print.
- Hassam, Andrew. *Writing and Reality: A Study of Modern British Diary Fiction*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood P, 1993. Print.
- Hooper, Glenn, and Tim Youngs. *Perspectives on Travel Writing*. Aldershot, Hants, and Burlington, VT.: Ashgate: 2004. Print.
- Hulme, Peter, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Travel Writing*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge UP, 2005. Print.
- Shapiro, Michael J. *The Politics of Representation: Writing Practices in Biography, Photography, and Policy Analysis*. Madison, Wis.: U of Wisconsin P, 1988. Print.
- Smith, Sidonie, and Julia Watson. *Reading Autobiography: A Guide for Interpreting Life Narratives*. Minneapolis, MN: U of Minnesota P, 2010. Print.

- IV. **Requirements:** Attendance is compulsory. More than 11 (eleven) hours of absence will result in **F1**.

Due to the fact that the course will be conducted through class discussions, not just lecturing by the instructor, it is essential that the students come to class having read the assigned materials. Furthermore, the students will be expected to take part in class discussions, work-shops, etc.

- V. **Method of Instruction:** The theoretical background for each type will be covered by the instructor through lectures, but the texts will be analysed through discussions. Thus, each student is expected to come to class having read the assigned materials and study the theoretical and historical background beforehand in order to be able to join class discussions, brain storming and group works.

- VI. **Assessment:** There will be two mid-term examinations and one final in addition to the response papers (and if necessary pop-quizzes). Participation is essential and will be seriously taken into consideration in the final grades. Grading will be as follows:

Midterm I:	20%
Midterm II:	20%
Class Participation & Response Papers:	20%
Final Examination:	40%

In the grading of all written and oral work, 25% of the total grade will be taken off for grammatical mistakes. The students must get **at least 50** points in the final exam.

Good Luck ! ☺