Course Description:
This course studies experimental forms of autobiographical expression by queer/trans subjects and their families, with a focus on North American and European writers, filmmakers, and performers. We will examine how self-writing challenges the boundaries between fact and fiction; plays with genre expectations and straddles different media; tells stories of gender and sexual non-conformity while exploring issues of intimacy, family, and community. Forms studied include autobiographical fiction, auto-documentary, storytelling, stand-up comedy, and pedagogical memoir. Students will also be encouraged to engage in creative autobiographical practices and experiment with genre and medium.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the course, students are expected to: (1) demonstrate knowledge of how queer/trans subjects and their families experiment with the autobiographical medium; (2) be conversant with critical issues regarding the autobiographical genre, its impact on concepts of the gendered and sexualized “self,” and its significance for queer, trans, and feminist thought; (3) develop a capacity to engage creatively with one or more autobiographical forms.

Course Texts and Courseware:
REQUIRED TEXTS
Anna Camilleri, I Am A Red Dress (Arsenal Pulp, 2004)
Ivan E Coyote, Loose Ends (Arsenal Pulp, 2005)
Kate Bornstein, A Queer and Present Danger (Beacon, 2012)
Helen Boyd, My Husband Betty (Seal Press, 2003)

FILMS & VIDEOS
Kimberly Reed, Prodigal Sons (2008)
Even Benestad, All About My Father (2002)
Jules Rosskam, Against A Trans Narrative (2008)
Margaret Cho, excerpts from I Am The One That I Want (2000) and other tours
Eddie Izzard, excerpts from Dressed To Kill (1999), Sexie (2003) and other tours

***Provisional***
Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance & Participation 10%
Blog Contributions 10%
Short Reading Responses (1 page) x 3 30%
Final Paper (8-10 pages) 30%
Collaborative Project 20%
(Description of assignments on page 2)

Prerequisite: 30 units including 3 units in GSWS.
DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

**Attendance & Participation**: The attendance and participation grade will reflect students’ attendance, degree of involvement during class discussion, and contribution to the learning environment.

**Blog**: Students are required to contribute to a class blog regularly throughout the semester to discuss relevant ideas.

**Short Reading Responses**: 1-page responses to three self-selected assigned readings/films.

**Final Paper**: A critical essay (8-10 pages) that develops a relevant topic of the student’s choice based on a combination of class reading and independent research outside of the course syllabus.

**Collaborative Project**: A group project that makes use of and/or reflects on the autobiographical genre in creative explorations of issues of gender/sexuality. The project will be graded collectively (i.e. students in one group will receive the same grade for that assignment).