WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPRING 1991

MARY LYNN STEWART

Lec.: Wed. 9:30-11:20
Tut.: Wed. 11:30-12:20

W.S. 306-3
WOMEN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, MEMOIRS & JOURNALS

This course will survey women's autobiographical writing, including memoirs, journals, diaries and "fiction" from Julien of Norwich (1342-1416?) through Anais Nin (1903-77), with the emphasis on twentieth century texts by Simone de Beauvoir, Colette, Nin, and Virginia Woolf. Through lectures, reading assignments, oral and written reports, we will address the following questions: Is autobiography a congenial genre for women? Are there "feminine" forms of autobiographical writing? Do women's autobiographical texts reflect their historical situation or/and a feminine sensibility?

There will be approximately one-and-one half hours of lecture and one-and-one half hours of discussion of texts each week.

REQUIRED READING

Beauvoir, Simone de, Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter
Colette, S. My Mother's House and Sido
________, Earthly Paradise
Nin, Anais, The Early Diary of Anais Nin, Vol. 3 (1923-7)
________, A Moment's Liberty: The Shorter Diary (abridged by Anne O. Bell).

ASSIGNMENTS

10% Written report (500 words) on assigned reading, Weeks 2 through 5
15% Oral report (10 minutes) on assigned and additional reading, Weeks 3 through 12
15% Participation in discussions of assigned reading, Weeks 2 through 13
60% Either:
a) Two short papers (5 to 7 pages) due weeks 7 and 13; or
b) One term paper (15 to 20 pages) due week 13

STUDENTS MAY APPLY TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT TO HAVE WS 306-3 DESIGNATED AS CREDIT TOWARD THE ENGLISH MAJOR REQUIREMENT.

TUTORIALS WILL BE HELD DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES