WOMEN'S STUDIES DEPARTMENT

FALL, 1993

MARY LYNN STEWART
Lec: Tuesday, 9:30-11:00
Tut: Tuesday, 11:00-12:30

WS 306-3/823-5

WOMEN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHIES, MEMOIRS & JOURNALS

This course will survey women's autobiographical writing, including journals, diaries and "fiction" in nineteenth and twentieth century Europe with the emphasis on twentieth century texts by Simone de Beauvoir, Colette, Anais Nin, and Virginia Woolf. Through lectures, readings 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 and/or 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:

Kadar, Marlene (Ed). Essays on Life Writing
Beauvoir, Simone de. The Prime of Life (Paragon)
Colette, S., My Mother's House and Sido
Nin, Anais. The Early Diary of Anais Nin, Vol. 3 (1923-27)
Woolf, Virginia. Moments of Being (revised edition, Jeanne Schulkind)

ASSIGNMENTS:

Written Report (500 words) on assigned reading to be submitted in Weeks 2, 3, 4 or 5. 10%
Oral Report (10 minutes) on assigned and additional reading, Weeks 3 through 12. 15%
Participation in discussions of assigned reading, Weeks 2 through 13. 15%
Either a) two short papers (5 to 7 pages) due weeks 7 through 13 or b) one term paper (15 to 20 pages) due week 13 60%

Prerequisites: 60 credit hours of W.S. 100

This course may be used for History upper division credit with permission from the History department.