WS 306-4: Autobiographies, Memoirs & Journals
WS 820-5: Graduate Seminar in Women's History

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Class time: Tues. 12:30-16:20
Office Hrs: Tues. 10-11:30 or by appt.

The course will analyze several forms of autobiographical writing -- the fictional autobiography, autobiographical fiction, personal journal, and memoir -- adopted by five women writers who left their homes (either in France or in the U.S.A.) to live in Paris, France in the first half of the twentieth century: Josephine Baker, Natalie Barney, Colette, Anais Nin, and Gertrude Stein.

Some of the issues we will consider are: The effect of exile for the four American writers, the "freedom of expression" offered a woman of colour like Josephine Baker, or a lesbian like Natalie Barnes, the importance of mother-daughter relations in Colette, and the negotiation of marital relations in Anais Nin.

There will be approximately two hours of lectures and two hours of discussion of texts each week.

Required readings:

Assignments:
Written report on assigned reading to be submitted in Week 2, 3 or 4. 10%
Oral report on assigned and appropriate additional reading, Weeks 5 through 12 15%
Participation in discussion of assigned reading 30%
Term paper on female autobiographer or autobiographical form used by women in the 1920s and 1930s:
Part 1: annotated bibliography due week 8 10%
Part 2: 10 - 15 page paper due week 13 35%

Prerequisites for undergraduates:
Six credits in Women's Studies including WS 101 and/or WS 102.

This course may be used for History Upper Division credit with permission of the History Dept.

Graduate students who are registered in WS 820-5:
Seminar on Women's History will be required to write a 20-25 page paper, and to meet with the instructor, for one hour, an extra 3 or 4 times during the semester.

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.