In this course, we will read contemporary queer autobiographies, with a focus on lesbian and transgender narratives. We will examine how queer selves are narrated in relation to the recurrent themes of trauma, journey, and transformation. Visual modes of autobiographical expression, such as film and photography, will also be considered. Students will be introduced to current theoretical debates on the autobiographical genre and their impact on concepts of the gendered and sexualized "self." Finally, we will also explore emergent autobiographical modes such as the personal web site and consider their significance for queer and feminist theorizing.

This class meets with WS306. Graduate students are expected to attend all classes and, in addition, two extra hours of seminar meeting every other week where we will discuss extra theoretical readings and conduct research presentations.

**Required readings:**
Audrey Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (Crossing Press, 1982)
Course Reader (with extra theoretical essays)

**Course requirements and Grading Structure:**
- 20% - Attendance & participation
- 20% - 3-4 page position paper + presentation
- 20% - Research presentation
- 40% - Research paper (15-20 pgs)

**DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS**
**Attendance & Participation:** Students are expected to participate actively in extra seminar sessions. The attendance and participation grade will reflect students' attendance record in all classes, degree of involvement during class discussion, and contribution to the learning environment.

**Position Paper + Presentation:** At the beginning of the semester, each student will choose from a list of assigned topics and prepare a position paper on one subject. Based on the paper, the student will give a presentation and lead class discussion on a scheduled date.

**Research Presentation:** Each student will give a 20-minute presentation of their research project. At least two days prior to the presentation, the following must be made available via email to the rest of the class:
- a description of your research project
- an annotated bibliography
- a list of questions to facilitate class discussion

**Research Paper:** Each student will write a 15-20 pg. (typed and double-spaced) research paper on a relevant topic of their choice.