WS 306-4  Women’s Autobiographies, Memoirs & Journals

Class time: Tues. 12:30-16:20
Room AQ 5009

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The course will analyze several forms of autobiographical writing -- the fictional autobiography, autobiographical fiction, personal journal, and memoir -- adopted by five women writers living in Paris, France, between the two World Wars: 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:
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 Department.