
Afua Cooper  
aca85@sfu.ca  
Phone: 778-782-4352  
Office hours: TBD

Course Description:
Since the time of slavery Black women and men have written about their lives in order to print and imprint their vision of themselves in popular consciousness. Moreover, they have used writing as a form of protest, a call to social, political and cultural action, and a tool to bring about their own emancipation. Through their writings Blacks articulated a radical and wholesome vision of self.
We will examine several autobiographical texts that scan the continuum of Black personhood across the African Diaspora and the Black Atlantic, and discuss then in their historical, social, and political contexts. The course will be organized around such themes as writing as natural as air, killing the Black Body, A Call to Action, Reclaiming Self/reclaiming the body, Wonderful Adventures, and Loving the Black Body. Special attention will be given to the contribution of African Canadians to the Black autobiographical tradition.

Course Texts and Courseware:
Mary Prince, (2004) History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave Narrative  
Boston King, (2003) The Life of Boston King: Black Loyalist, Minister and Master Carpenter  
Nega Mezlekia, (2000) Notes from the Hyena’s Belly: An Ethiopian Boyhood  
Cheryl Foggo (1990) Pourin’down Rain  
Additional readings will be placed on reserve in the Library

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Class Participation: 10%  
Term paper: 50%  
Mid-term test: 20%  
Group work: 20%

Prerequisites: 60 units

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. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY T10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)