Laurie Stone notes that the most autobiographically-inspired writing “fails as literature because their authors mistake their experience for a story rather than search out the story in their experience.” Whether your autobiography-inspired text is fictionalized, theorized, lyricized, or prosaic life-writing, your challenge is the same: you are writing a “story” you know, yet you don’t know. It is the tracking of what you don’t know that drives and vitalizes your writing the most.

In this open genre workshop, emphasis will be on the writing process as discovery; on recognizing the distinct language and form(s) particular to the pulse of your story. The course will consist of mini-lectures on process and form; in-class exercises investigating these concepts; tracking your workshopping of this work, and revising it to final draft.

Course requirements
- attendance and writing of your project and notebook
- participation in workshopping of your’s and other students’ work
- and studying the writing strategies in one of the books listed below
- of a short text on your writing process (Mid-term)
- 15 minutes of finished work to either to be read at a public reading or produced in a chapbook (to be determined by the class)

Recommended readings

Grading Evaluation:
Attendance and participation 20%
Writer’s notebook 10%
Mid-term text 30%
Finished work for reading/chapbook 40%

Prerequisites:
Six credits in Women’s Studies including WS 101 or 102.