

Course Title : **Life Writing**
Course Code :
Nature of the course : **VAC**
Total Credits : **02**
Distribution of Marks : **30 (End Sem) + 20 (In-Sem)**

Course Objective: The objectives of the course are

- To acquaint learners with the genre of life writing and its various forms.
- To offer a historical overview of the practice of the genre in the Western and the non-Western contexts
- To apprise the learners with the values of ethics, integrity and faith that the texts selected for study represent
- To enable the learners to critically examine the politics of writing lives vis-à-vis the questions of publication and readership
- To integrate the reading of celebrated lives with that of the real life situations of the learners

Unit	Topics	L	T	P	Total Hours
I	Life Writing as a Genre and its Development Autobiography, Biography, Memoir Letters Journals Travel Writing Development of the genre in the west Practices of life writing in India.	7	3		10
II	Select texts Samuel Johnson- Selections from <i>Lives of the Poets</i> M.K Gandhi- Excerpts from <i>The Story of My Experiments with Truth.</i> Anne Frank- Excerpts from <i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> Binodini Dasi- Excerpts <i>My Story and Life as an Actress</i>	15	5		20
	Total	30			30

Course Outcome: After completing this course, students will be able to

CO1: Explain the various sub genres of life writing

LO1: Illustrate the form of biography writing through a close reading of Samuel Johnson's text

LO2: Examine the tenets of autobiography writing through a focused reading of Gandhi and Binodini Dasi

LO3: Examine the form of diary writing through a reading of Anne Frank

CO2: Illustrate the practice of life writing in different socio-cultural contexts

LO1: Define the concepts of self, identity, narrative etc. in the European context

LO2: Examine the focus on collective lives in Indian life writing

LO3: Discuss how life writing in times of political crisis act as historical records through a reading of Anne Frank.

CO3: Examine the intersections of race, class, gender and religion in life writing

LO1: Discuss the narrative modes adopted by writers to present the understanding of the said markers of identity

LO2: Analyse the development and practice of men's autobiographies and women's autobiographies

LO3: Analyse the role played by readership and publication in life writing

Modes of In-Semester Assessment:

20 Marks

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| 01. | One Sessional tests:
Marks | 10x1=10 |
| 02. | Any <u>one</u> of the following activities listed below:
Marks | 10x1=10 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Seminar/ Group discussion/ Assignment related to the Course content.○ Presentation of seminar papers.○ Assignments.○ Quiz. | |

Final Examination:

30 Marks

Unit 1: 2 SA= 5x2=10 marks

Unit 2: 1 LAQ+ 2 SA= (10+5+5) =20 marks

*LAQ= Long Answer Question; SA= Short Answer

Suggested readings:

Anderson, Linda. *Autobiography*. Routledge, 2007. New Critical Idiom Series.

Arnold, David and Stuart Blackburn, eds. *Telling Lives in India: Biography, Autobiography, and Life History*, Indiana University, 2004.

Boswell, James. *Life of Johnson* .1791. ed. R. W. Chapman, Oxford University Press, 1970

Broughton, Trev Lynn and Linda Anderson, eds. *Women's Lives/Women's Times: New Essays on Auto/Biography*. State University of New York Press, 1997.

Majeed, Javed. *Autobiography, Travel and Postnational Identity: Gandhi, Nehru and Iqbal*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Olney, James ed. *Autobiography: Essays Theoretical and Critical*. Princeton University Press, 1980

Sarkar, Tanika. *Words to Win: The Making of Amar Jiban- A Modern Autobiography*. 1999. New Delhi: Zubaan, 2013

Smith, Sidonie, and Watson, Julia. *Reading Autobiography: A Guide for Interpreting Life Narratives*. University of Minnesota Press, 2001

Yagoda, Ben. *Memoir: A History*. Riverhead Books, 2009.