

## Life Writing

The list focuses on "life writing," in recognition that the term now covers a wider diversity of forms than only "autobiography" and "biography." In addition to acknowledging that this field is still developing, the track is conceived as a historical sweep through a genre that raises questions of gender, sexuality, subjectivity, narrative, and historiography. As such, it may be useful to approach the listed texts with the following questions: How do life-writings show subjectivity to be a cultural concept? How do authors develop, reject, and complicate the autonomous "I"? How is cultural ideology created and how does it inform representation of self? The track brings to the fore the operations of cultural identities in narrations of self and of others' lives, as well as the permeable boundaries between fictional and non-fictional prose and verse. Faculty involved on this track: Saher Alam, Ellen Crowell, Tony Hasler, Georgia Johnston, Paul Lynch, Don Stump, and Phyllis Weliver.

1. Augustine, St., *Confessions* (c. 397-401)
2. Thomas Hoccleve, *Complaint and Dialogue from Series* (c. 1419-20)
3. *The Book of Margery Kempe* (1436-40?)
4. Anne Askew, *Examinations of Anne Askew* (c.1548-50)
5. William Roper, *Life of Sir Thomas More* (c. 1555, pub. 1626)
6. George Cavendish, *The Life and Death of Cardinal Wolsey* (c. 1554-58, pub. 1810)
7. John Foxe, *Acts and Monuments* (1563): selections such as the lives and martyrdom of William Tyndale, Thomas Cranmer, et al.
8. William Camden, *The History of the Life and Reign of Elizabeth, Late Queen of England* (Latin 1617, English 1630)
9. Edmund Bohun, *The Character of Queen Elizabeth* (1693)
10. John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners* (1666)
11. Lucy Hutchinson, *Memoirs Of The Life Of Colonel Hutchinson* (c. 1664-70, pub. 1806)
12. Samuel Pepys, *Diary* (1660-69): selections on the Restoration of Charles II, the Great Plague in 1665, the Great Fire of London in 1666, and the Anglo-Dutch War in 1665-67.
13. James Boswell, *Life of Samuel Johnson* (1791)
14. Dorothy and William Wordsworth, *Home at Grasmere* (1800-03)
15. Anne Lister, *I Know My Own Heart, the Diaries of Anne Lister* (ed by Helena Whitbread) 1817-1824 (printed 1988)
16. William Wordsworth, *Prelude* (posth. 1850)
17. Thomas De Quincey, *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* (1822 edition)
18. James Hogg, *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (1824)
19. Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845)
20. Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre* (1847)
21. Alfred Tennyson, *In Memoriam* (1850)
22. Hannah Cullwick, *The Diaries of Hannah Cullwick, Victorian Maidservant* (1854-73).
23. Elizabeth Gaskell, *The Life of Charlotte Brontë* (1857)
24. Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)

25. John Addington Symonds, *The Memoirs of John Addington Symonds* (1897)
26. Samuel Butler, *The Way of All Flesh* (posth. 1903)
27. Oscar Wilde, *De Profundis* (1905)
28. Strachey, *Eminent Victorians* (1918)
29. Virginia Woolf, *Orlando* (1928)
30. A.J.A. Symonds, *The Quest for Corvo* (1934)
31. Sigmund Freud, *Dora* (1905) , *The Wolfman* (1918), *Leonardo* (1910)
32. Gertrude Stein, *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* (1933)
33. Richard Wright, *Black Boy* (1945)
34. Richard Rodriguez, *Hunger for Memory* (1982)
35. Primo Levi, *The Periodic Table* (1984)
36. Leon Edel, *Henry James: A Life* (1987) [choose one volume]
37. Sara Suleri, *Meatless Days* (1991)
38. Mary Karr, *The Liar's Club* (1995)
39. W.G. Sebald, *The Emigrants* (1997)
40. Dave Eggers, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* (2000)
41. Colm Toibin, *The Master* (2005)
42. Alice Munro, *The View from Castle Rock* (2006)
43. Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home: A Family TragiComic* (2006)
44. Jamaica Kincaid, *The Autobiography of My Mother* (1995)
45. Richard Altick, *Lives and Letters: A History of Literary Biography in England and America* (1965)
46. Ruth Hoberman, *Modernizing Lives: English Biography 1918-1939* (1986)
47. Carolyn Heilbrun, *Writing a Woman's Life* (1988)
48. Paul De Man, "Autobiography as Defacement." (1979) *Modern Language Notes*
49. Maurice Blanchot and Jacques Derrida, *The Instant of My Death and Demeure: Fiction and Testimony*; [highly suggested companion text: Derrida, *Chaque fois unique, la fin du monde* (2003) and Sean Gaston, "The Precedent (12-29 October 2004) in The impossible mourning of Jacques Derrida (2006)]
50. David Amigoni (ed,) *Life Writing and Victorian Culture* (2006)