

Autobiography: Theory and Practice

Objective: This paper is designed to give an introduction to autobiography. It serves as a road map to locate and identify different autobiographies and critical texts down the centuries. The scholar is expected to read a handful of autobiographies and critical texts on it.

Outcome: After doing a course in autobiography the scholar is expected to form his/her understanding of autobiography. One must be able to see texts of life writing not just as isolated instances but as constituent parts of a genre.

Unit I

1. *Reading Autobiography: A Guide for Interpreting Life Narratives* - Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson.

Unit II

1. *Autobiography: New Critical Idiom* – Linda Anderson

Unit III

1. Autobiography as De- Facement – Paul de Man
2. The Autobiography of America - James Onley
3. Autobiography Now - Rockwell Gray

Unit IV

1. *Subjectivity: Theories of the Self from Freud to Haraway* – Nick Mansfield

Unit V

1. *I Know Why the Caged Birds Sing* – Maya Angelou

References:

- Anderson, Linda. *Autobiography*. London: Routledge, 2001. Print. The New Critical Idiom.
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- Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Birds Sing*. New York: Bentam, 1970.
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