

PERFORMING THE SELF:
AMERICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHY
ENG 240

Dr. Kacy Tillman

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2 – 4; Thursday 2 – 2:45; by appointment

I am also available via skype and gmail chat (username kacytillman for both). After 3/17/11, office hours will be entirely virtual.

Wiki Page:

<http://www.tillman240.pbworks.com>

Course Description:

What is American autobiography? How has it evolved? How do people shape their notion of the self – is it by what they include in their stories, or what they leave out? The American autobiography was born at the same time as the nation; what ties does life-writing have with national identity? These questions and others will be explored in this course through blogs (online journal entries), exams, and a final project. The last part of the course – primarily, the research and drafting of the final project -- will be conducted online, when class will not meet conventionally.

Texts:

1. *Up from Slavery* by Booker T. Washington
Publisher: Norton
ISBN: 978-0-393-96725-5
2. *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God* by Mary Rowlandson. ed. by Neal Salisbury.
Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's
ISBN: 978-0-312-11151-7
3. *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* by Benjamin Franklin
Publisher: W.W. Norton
ISBN: 978-0-393-95294-0
4. *Our Nig* by Harriet Wilson
Publisher: Penguin
ISBN: 978-0-14243777-3
5. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass
Publisher: Norton

- ISBN: 978-0-393-96966-5
5. *Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told by Alex Haley
 Publisher: Ballantine (of Random House)
 ISBN: 978-0-345-35068-5
6. *Paula* by Isabel Allende
 Publisher: Perennial (Harper Collins)
 ISBN: 978-0-06-092721-6
7. *Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas
 Publisher: Random House
 ISBN: 978-0-8129-6837-8

Goals:

- To be able to articulate how the autobiography has evolved from the eighteenth century to the present
- To be able to discuss the complexities of an “American” identity
- To be able to write an original argument about a text or texts in class
- To be able to actively participate in a discussion with other classmates about themes, symbols, characterization, and plot development in autobiographies by major American authors.

Grades

Grade Distribution

Midterm Exam: 35%

Final Project: 35%

Daily Grades: 15%

Participation: 10%

Student Presentation: 5%

*If you would like to discuss a grade with me, please schedule an appointment with me 24 hours after you receive your grade. I will not discuss grades after class or before the 24 hours have passed.

I will not discuss grade changes or fairness via email. Please see me in person.

Grading Scale:

A	92 – 100	C	72 – 78
AB	89 – 91	CD	68 - 71
B	82 – 88	D	60 - 67
BC	79-81	F	0 – 59

Participation:

Participation is graded on class preparedness, involvement in discussion, and classroom etiquette. Being prepared means coming to class on time, having completed the day's assignment, and engaging in the discussion without prompting. Upholding classroom etiquette means you adhere to the basic rules of common courtesy, which include respecting your professor, your classmates, and yourself. Texting or engaging in outside activities while in class results in a deduction from your participation points.

Plagiarism:

Please see the University of Tampa's statement of "Student Rights and Responsibilities" for a discussion of plagiarism in all its forms:
<http://www.ut.edu/studentlife/Judicialaffairs>.

The following instances constitute plagiarism:

- "Offering for course credit as one's own work, in whole or in part, the work of another."
- "Incorporating into one's work offered for course credit passages taken either word for word or in substance from a work of another, unless the student credits the original author and identifies the original author's work with quotation marks, footnotes, or another appropriate written explanation."
- "Offering for course credit one's own work, but work that one has previously offered for course credit in another course, unless one secures permission to do so prior to submission from the instructor in whose course the work is being offered."
- "Offering for course credit work prepared in collaboration with another, unless the student secures the instructor's permission in advance of submission."

Plagiarism results in failure of the course.

Absences:

You can miss 3 classes, for any reason. Any classes missed thereafter will result in failure for the participation portion of the course.

Being late twice equals one absence. "Late" is defined as any time after the roll sheet has circulated and I have picked it up. Those who arrive after 10 minutes of class cannot be counted present. If you leave early, unless you have extenuating circumstances, you will also be counted absent.

Class is taken by signing a roll sheet; you may only receive credit for being present if you signed the sheet; if you arrive late, or miss signing the roll for any reason, you must find me before class ends to sign the sheet. No retroactive signing will be permitted.

Late Work:

Late homework will not be accepted, since you will have advance notice of your assignments. However, if you know ahead of time that you will be missing a class, you may turn your work in early and receive full credit. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate about what you need to know for the next discussion.

If you missed turning in an assignment because you were ill, you may turn the assignment in, but only if (a) it is accompanied by a doctor's excuse and (b) it is submitted no later than 7 days after its due date.

Make-up exams can only be given after a doctor's note has been provided no less than 1 week after the exam was scheduled to take place. If you know you will be missing an exam, such as for a school-related event, arrangements for a make-up must be made with the professor at least one week prior to the exam date.

Technology:

Our class wiki can be found at <http://tillman240.pbworks.com>

This course will use online technology. Technical difficulties or not having a computer available are NEVER excuses to fail to submit your work. If you cannot submit your work electronically, bring a hard copy to class to receive credit for the assignment. You may use this alternative plan twice during the course and no more and only until 3/17/11. When the class becomes virtual, **all work** must be completed online. If your computer or internet connection malfunctions, use a lab at school or borrow a friend's.

Laptops may be used in class only when a lecture is being given (for taking notes) or when revisions are taking place. Otherwise, you should be engaged in discussion and laptops should be closed. Students who violate laptop use by engaging in unrelated activities on their computers will lose the privilege of utilizing their laptops in the classroom.

Observe wiki ethics. Compose your papers offline (rather than on-screen) and copy/paste when your work is completed. Do not steal the lock from another student unless that student has been on the wiki more than 5 minutes; by the same token, do not spend more than 5 minutes on a page to which all students must post by a deadline. Do not erase other students' work, either out of carelessness or malice, and do not erase a student's name from a time slot you wanted but was taken. Do not edit the syllabus or assignments unless directed to do so by the professor. Violation of wiki ethics will result in a deduction of participation points, at the very least, or may receive harsher censure as the professor sees fit.

ADA Compliance:

If there is any student who has special needs because of a disability, please go directly to the Academic Center for Excellence in North Walker Hall. You may phone 813-258-7251, or e-mail jdelvalle@ut.edu to report your needs and provide documentation of your disability for certification. Jennifer Del Valle is the associate director of the Academic Center for Excellence, Student Disability Services. Please feel free to discuss this issue with me in private if you need more information.

Saunders Writing Center:

The Saunders Writing Center provides free tutoring to all students interested in improving their writing abilities. The Center tutors will assist with aspects of writing. It is located in Plant Hall 323. Students may make an appointment (ext. 6244) or simply drop by.

***All assignments are due the day they are posted.**

*If we are discussing a book or reading assignment during class, bring that text with you each time.

*I will post a quiz to Engrade before each class period, beginning 1/25. You must take the quiz before each class meets. I've included reminders the first two days of class.

*I will begin almost all classes with an in-class writing exercise. This should be completed in a small, bound notebook, which I will take up at random times during the semester to grade.

1/18 Class Introduction. Familiarize yourself with the policies and procedures if you missed this class.

So that you can complete your assignments, I must register you with the class wiki. To do so, I will enroll you by the email you gave me on the first day of class. Check it so you can confirm enrollment. If you didn't give me an email address, you must: send it to ktillman@ut.edu so that you can access the assignments.

1/20 Read What are we reading when we read autobiography.pdf and Fact in Autobiography.pdf.
(Right-click to "save as" if your browser is slow to open the file, or if you want to save the file.)

By 5 pm today, you must sign up for a Current Event Presentation by clicking the edit tab at the top of the screen and typing your name next to "Current Event

Presentation Given By." Only one name per day, please, and observe wiki ethics (i.e. don't erase someone else's name just because they've taken a desirable slot). Click here for detailed instructions about the assignment.

The Spiritual Autobiography

1/25 Bring a small, bound notebook for your in-class writing assignment. (This applies to every class day.)

The Sovereignty and Goodness of God by Rowlandson
Reminder: don't forget your engrade quiz!

Here's how to take the quiz:

Go to engrade. Log in.

- 1) Click on the class name
- 2) Click the Quizzes tab
- 3) Follow the instructions to complete the quiz.
- 4) Confused? Trouble logging in? Go to Wiki How To Videos.

Current Event Presentation Given By: Kendra Mahon

1/27 Bring your small, bound notebook to class with you (every day) for in class writing.

The Autobiography of Ben Franklin, parts 1&2 by Franklin (1-76)
Reminder: don't forget your engrade quiz!

Current Event Presentation Given By: Kristen Vasquez

2/1 The Autobiography of Ben Franklin, parts 3&4 by Franklin (77 - end of autobio)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Charlotte Haire

The Slave Narrative/Black Autobiography

2/3 Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Douglass (1-42)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Tiffany Blume

2/8 Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass by Douglass (43-80)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Rachel Adams

2/10 Our Nig by Wilson

Current Event Presentation Given By: Emily D'Atri

2/15 Up From Slavery by Washington (1-75)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Verner D'souza

2/17 Up From Slavery by Washington (75-146)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Andrew Everett and David Tulloch

2/22 Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X & Alex Haley (1-239)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Aaron Fagan

2/24 Autobiography of Malcolm X by Malcolm X & Alex Haley (240 - end)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Kristyn Grieb

Immigrant Autobiography

3/1 Paula by Allende (3-162)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Casey Cavanagh

3/3 Paula by Allende (163-330)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Noelle Buoniello

3/7 – 3/11 Spring Break

3/15 Lecture will be given via vodcast: Funny in Farsi Vodcast.mov .
This info will be represented on the exam; right-click to download if opening in a new window is slow.

Funny in Farsi by Dumas (1-115)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Jenna Corey

3/17 Funny in Farsi by Dumas (116-end)

Current Event Presentation Given By: Michelle Hunt and Alexis Bennett

3/22 Guest Lecturer John Capouya presents "How to Write a Memoir" (he'll be telling you strategies for completing your final project -- so don't miss this!)

3/24 Short Answer & Quotation Identification Exam (taken in-class during typical class time)

Class Becomes Virtual as of 3/29 and does not meet in-class unless specified.

*All work is due the day it is listed by the time class would typically begin, were we to meet in person.

3/29 Essay Exam becomes available online here.

3/31 Email Completed Essay Exam via an attached file to ktillman@ut.edu by 5 pm today, with Essay Exam in the subject line.

The file must be from Word or Pages, or it must be an .rtf for me to open it. Do Not send word perfect documents, as I cannot open them.

4/5 Post your project plan to the wiki page "Paper Topics."

4/7 Consult the instructions & model for writing a paper outline here; post your own outline on the same page. For those of you who'd like to create an electronic outline, considering using webspiration, a free online outline generator (requires a login of your own choosing).

4/12 Working Bibliography due on wiki page "Working Bibliography."

4/14 Rough Drafts of your project Must be Posted to the Wiki under

Rough Drafts by 5 pm today.

Watch vodcasts "Revising the Memoir Paper" and "How to Perform Peer Review" on the vodcasts page.

4/19 Conduct Peer Review electronically in groups. Find your peer group's papers here. Follow instructions outlined in vodcast "How to Perform Peer Review" located here.

4/21 Sign up for 1 conference time slot with me on either 4/26 or 4/28 by 5 pm today.

Use today (4/21) to revise your project based on peer review feedback.

4/26 Conferences will be held in Plant Hall 509. Bring questions/concerns about your paper. Sign up for the one of the times below by writing your name to the side. Do not delete anyone else's name. You may not change your time without first

consulting me. No makeup conferences will be given due to time constraints. Deductions apply to students who miss their conference appointment times, no matter the excuse. If you sign up for a student conference with me today, you do not have anything due 4/28.

4/28 Conferences will be held in Plant Hall 509. Bring questions/concerns about your paper. Sign up for the one of the times below by writing your name to the side. Do not delete anyone else's name. You may not change your time without first consulting me. No makeup conferences will be given due to time constraints. Deductions apply to students who miss their conference appointment times, no matter the excuse. If you sign up for a student conference with me today, you did not have anything due 4/26.

5/2 Final Project due here 5 pm.

*This syllabus is subject to changes and addendums.