

COURSE DETAIL

MAKING THE PERSONAL POLITICAL: WOMEN'S SELF-PORTRAITS FROM ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL

Country

United Kingdom - England

Host Institution

King's College London

Program(s)

English Universities, King's College London

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

English

UCEAP Course Number

123

UCEAP Course Suffix

E

UCEAP Official Title

MAKING THE PERSONAL POLITICAL: WOMEN'S SELF-PORTRAITS FROM ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL

UCEAP Transcript Title

WOMEN SELF-PORTRAIT

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

The academic study of life-writing has often privileged male narratives of the self. Diaries, letters, and memoirs have become part of a gendered canon in the philosophical study of humanity and subjectivity. Paradoxically, women's autobiographical works are routinely dismissed as too personal to be of relevance to a general audience. While autobiographical works written by men are read as important contributions to knowledge about the human, those by women are frequently read as frivolous, echoing other gendered inconsistencies in the perception of “male” and “female” genres by intellectual commentators. In tandem with primary texts, the integration of theoretical secondary readings examines how feminist theory has offered radical approaches to the study of the self. This course explores the development of women's autobiography through different media forms over the course of the late 20th and early 21st centuries in the UK and USA. This exploration highlights the cultural, social, and technological shifts that have enabled new avenues of creation and distribution for women whose voices have been doubly marginalized by inequalities of race, class, sexuality, or gender identity. The move from analogue to digital media in the production and dissemination of autobiographical material are explored in relation to questions of ephemerality, longevity, and value. From diaries to political essays, memoirs, photographs, graphic novels, web series, films, blogs, and music videos, the texts studied illuminate the gendering of “seriousness” in the study of culture and the sustained relevance of the relationship between the personal and the political.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

6ABLCF03

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MAKING THE PERSONAL POLITICAL: WOMEN'S SELF-PORTRAITS FROM ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL

Host Institution Campus

King's College London

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Liberal Arts

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