

Alix Paschkowiak, Instructor, Comparative Literature  
Spring 2000  
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Comparative Literature Hours: M W 12-1pm & by appt.  
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## **Spiritual Autobiography**

**Mach W-25 T/TH 11:15-12:30**  
**Lecture/Discussion**

### **Course Description & Objective:**

Spiritual Autobiography is writing about the self or the selves in confrontation with the unknown, during times of personal or social conflict, loss, and rebirth (spiritual in this sense does not necessarily refer to institutionalized religion). We will read autobiographies from several traditions and time periods. This class is reading and writing intensive. The texts shall act as model and subject for good writing.

### **Texts and Materials:**

*Black Boy*, Richard Wright  
*Memoirs*, Pablo Neruda  
one book of your choice\* see list  
*Oranges are not the Only Fruit*, Jeanette Winterson  
*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, James Joyce  
*The Cavalry Maiden*, Nadezhda Durova  
*The Woman Warrior*, Maxine Hong Kingston  
*Night*, Elie Wiesel

**Buy at Atticus Bookstore, Main St., Amherst**

### **Requirements:**

- Written/oral responses to readings
- Participation in discussion
- Reading quizzes
- Five Essays: 3 Autobiographies, 2 Critical essays
- One Oral Presentation + brief essay
- Take Home Final Exam
- Note: all assignments must be completed, including the final, in order to pass this course

### **Attendance Policy:**

I expect you to attend every class meeting. On the fourth absence, your final grade will be lowered. On the sixth absence, you will fail this course. Absences resulting from medical problems or other emergencies will be excused if proper documentation is submitted to me. I give extra consideration when assigning final grades to those students with perfect attendance.

### **Late Essay Policy:**

All late papers will be subject to a grade reduction. If you turn your paper in more than a week late, your paper will be returned to you with a grade of "F."

## Grading Policy:

In determining your course grade, I will give slightly more emphasis to work done later in the semester, especially if you show improvement. In general, each essay counts roughly the same. Participation, reading quizzes, and other special assignments also count in the analysis of your final grade.

## Course Schedule:

Jan 27	Introduction
Feb 1	<i>Black Boy</i>
Feb 3	<i>Black Boy</i>
Feb 8	<i>Black Boy</i>
Feb 10	<i>Memoirs</i>
	<b>Autobiography #1 due in class</b>
Feb 15	<i>Memoirs</i>
Feb 17	<i>Memoirs</i>
Feb 22	<i>Oranges are not the only Fruit</i>
Feb 24	<i>Oranges are not the only Fruit</i>
Feb 29	<i>Oranges are not the only Fruit</i>
	<b>Critical Essay Due</b>
Mar 2	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
Mar 7	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
Mar 9	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>
	<b>Autobiography #2 due in class</b>
Mar 12-20	<b>Spring Break</b>
Mar 21	<i>The Cavalry Maiden</i>
Mar 23	<i>The Cavalry Maiden</i>
Mar 28	<i>The Cavalry Maiden</i>
Mar 30	<i>The Woman Warrior</i>
Apr 4	<i>The Woman Warrior</i>
	<b>Critical Essay due</b>
Apr 6	<i>The Woman Warrior</i>
Apr 11	<i>Night</i>
Apr 13	<i>Night</i>
Apr 18	<i>Night</i>
	<b>Autobiography #3</b>
Apr 20	<b>Holiday</b>
Apr 25	<b>Presentations</b>
Apr 27	<b>Presentations</b>
May 2	<b>Presentations</b>
May 4	<b>No class - student conferences</b>
May 9	<b>Presentations</b>
May 11	<b>Presentations</b>
Date TBA	<b>Take Home Final due in my mailbox in 303 South College</b>