Course Description:
This course will examine the nature of autobiographical writing from a wide range of cultural and historical contexts. While last quarter focused on the genre of the epic—texts that imagine and even create a people’s sense of a shared past and a shared culture—this quarter will focus on how individuals imagine their own, particular lives. We will explore, among other issues, how the self is constructed through reading and writing, the relationship between memory and identity, the claims of authenticity, the oscillation between interior and exterior life, and the peculiarities of individual voice.

Course Readings:

Available at the Seminary COOP bookstore:


6) INSTRUCTOR’S CHOICE

Course Calendar:

**Week 1**

Tuesday  Introduction

Thursday  Augustine, *Confession*: Introduction + Books I-III

**Week 2**

Tuesday  Augustine, *Confession*: Books IV-VII

Thursday  Augustine, *Confession*: Books VIII-X

Paper #1 assigned
Week 3
Tues Sei Shonagon, *The Pillow Book*
Thurs Sei Shonagon, *The Pillow Book*

Week 4
Tues Sei Shonagon, *The Pillow Book*
Thurs Nabokov, *Speak, Memory*: Chapters 1-5
   **Paper #1 due**

Week 5
Tues Nabokov, *Speak, Memory*: Chapters 6-10
   **Paper #2 assigned**
Thurs Nabokov, *Speak, Memory*: Chapters 11-15

Week 6
Tues Soyinka, *Ake*: Chapters 1-5 (pp. 1-76)
Thurs Soyinka, *Ake*: Chapters 6-10 (pp. 77-160)

Week 7
Thurs Bechdel, *Fun Home*: pp. 1-120
   **Paper #2 due**

Week 8
Tues Bechdel, *Fun Home*: pp. 121-232
   **Paper #3 assigned**
Thurs INSTRUCTOR’S CHOICE

Week 9
Tues INSTRUCTOR’S CHOICE
Thurs INSTRUCTOR’S CHOICE

Week 10
Tues Final discussion
Thurs READING PERIOD
   **Paper #3 due TBD**