

Queer Life Through Memoir



Special Topics: WMST 4500/5000

Online -- Asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Catherine Connolly

Issues of sex, gender and sexuality are often at the center of contemporary debate. Exploring the lives of others through memoir helps us to understand those around us, as well as ourselves, and to think deeply and critically, before articulating our respective

thoughts. This class explores queer life through the genre of memoir. We read about a book week and then engage with each other in weekly discussions. The texts chosen show a breadth of life experiences and span 40 years of lived experience. There are texts written by individuals who self define as women, men, trans, bi, gay, lesbian, queer and none of the above. While too few memoirs of queer individuals of color have been published, several have been included in the required readings, including those by Audre Lorde, Reinaldo Arenas and Janet Mock. We will read some of the biggest names in LGBTQ memoir writing as well as some lesser known authors. Students in previous classes have commented how much they have enjoyed the texts, and their interactions with each other. I hope you can join us this year.



Janet Mock, author, *Redefining Realness*.



Melanie Hoffert, author, *Prairie Silence*



Terrence Dean, author, *Hiding in Hip Hop*