NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus. Summer term courses may be accelerated – please check the Ecampus Schedule of Classes for more information.

WR 420 / 520
STUDIES IN WRITING - Writing Women’s Lives: Representing Resistance, Strategies of Critique

COURSE CREDIT:
(4) This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND ENFORCED PREREQUISITES:
Upper-division standing.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Selected topics in rhetoric and composition. This course is repeatable for a maximum of 8 credits.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Liddy Detar, Ph.D.
liddy.detar@oregonstate.edu
For more information, contact: SCHOOL OF WRITING, LITERATURE AND FILM, MORE 238, 541-737-3244. Course Information: http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/wlf/students/courses

Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information. For accuracy, please check the ECampus Schedule of Classes to see the most current instructor information. You can search for contact information by name from the OSU Home Page.
LEARNING RESOURCES:

**Required Texts to Order:** (Additional readings will be available electronically.)
Audre Lorde, *ZAMI*
*Half Broke Horses*, Jeanette Walls *The Glass Castle*, Jeanette Walls
*Caucasia*, Danzy Senna
*Writing the Memoir, From Truth to Art* 2nd edition., Judith Barrington
*Writing About Your Life*, William Zinsser
*The Art and Craft of Memoir*, William Zinsser

**NOTE:** For textbook accuracy, please always check the textbook list at the [OSU Bookstore website](https://www.bookstore.eugene.oregonstate.edu). Sample syllabi may not have the most up-to-date information.

Students can also click the ‘OSU Beaver Store’ link associated with the course information in the [Ecampus schedule of classes](https://ecampus.oregonstate.edu) for course textbook information and ordering.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:

As a result of taking this course, students will:

- Relate effective and informed reading practices and one’s ability to produce powerful and engaged critical and creative writing.
- Demonstrate a writing practice that will include generating ideas, organizing thoughts, drafting and composing, soliciting and incorporating feedback, and revising and polishing writing.
- Construct a “writing life” that challenges the discipline specific distinctions traditionally made between academic and creative writing, theory and experience.
- Analyze audience and how it relates to form, both in the texts read for the course and in the student’s own writing.
- Analyze the ways in which difference is socially constructed and how social and political categories such as race, ethnicity, gender, class, religion and sexual orientation are connected to institutions of power and relationships of domination.
- Identify and articulate women’s strategies for transforming or resisting relationships of domination.
- Examine a theoretical repertoire in the fields of feminist literary studies, post-colonial studies, history and cultural studies.
COURSE CONTENT AND POLICIES:

How does a writer transform a life into written text? How might we transform our own? This course explores how women’s lives are shaped from lived experience into written texts of many different forms: from autobiography, memoir, poetry, fiction, personal essays, and academic writing, to comics and films. We will explore what moves us to write the story of our lives or someone else’s and how questions of genre and form are related to the story being told. As we read memoirs written by others, we will explore their relationship to cultural configurations of our identities, such as gender, sexuality, race, class and ethnicity, as well as our relationships of kinship and community. Through these discussions, we will explore how the acts of writing are “performative” and strategic representations of the self and of personal experience. To articulate this, we will draw from literary theory and feminist and post-colonial studies.

The selected readings offer us various models for approaching the genre of memoir, in our own writing lives, and in our discussions of their strategic representations, we will explore what makes for effective writing, issues of audience, and the craft of story telling. We will articulate and develop for ourselves an effective writing process that includes exploring ideas and conducting research, drafting and sharing one’s writing for feedback, and revising and polishing. Students will produce a number of different kinds of written materials: a critical essay offering a literary analysis of a single text, an ethnographic exploration of a woman’s life, as well as a series of creative writing pieces designed to explore the genre of memoir and prompt the writing of our own life stories. A final assignment will give students an opportunity to develop further any of these writings in the form of a creative, multi-media project. Development of our writing and our thinking will happen in collaboration with each other through discussion boards and supportive peer writing workshops.

Graduate Students: Welcome! This course is specifically designed to offer you the opportunity to explore more deeply issues of representation and resistance, gender performativity, literary analysis and women’s history through additional theoretical readings and creative and critical writing projects. You will also participate in a separate discussion group tailored to your particular fields and areas of interest.

Important Links:
Student Conduct Home:
http://oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/

Academic Integrity:
http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/proctoring/academichonesty.htm

NetTutor link:
http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/student-services/online-tutoring/
EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:
See course Canvas site.

COURSE SITE LOGIN INFORMATION
Information on how to login to your course site can be found HERE.

STATEMENT REGARDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Oregon State University is committed to student success; however, we do not require students to use accommodations nor will we provide them unless they are requested by the student. The student, as a legal adult, is responsible to request appropriate accommodations. The student must take the lead in applying to Disability Access Services (DAS) and submit requests for accommodations each term through DAS Online. OSU students apply to DAS and request accommodations at our Getting Started with DAS page.

Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT CONDUCT (OSU POLICY)
Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Intentional acts of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism may be penalized by imposing an "F" grade in the course.

Student conduct is governed by the universities policies, as explained in the Office of the Dean of Student Life: Student Conduct and Community Standards. In an academic community, students and faculty, and staff each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment, whether online or in the classroom. Students, faculty, and staff have the responsibility to treat each other with understanding, dignity, and respect.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g. on discussion boards, email postings, etc.) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Students will
be expected to treat all others with the same respect as they would want afforded to themselves. Disrespectful behavior (such as harassing behavior, personal insults, inappropriate language) or disruptive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in sanctions as defined by Student Conduct and Community Standards.

For more info on these topics please see:

- Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
- Student Conduct and Community Standards - Offenses
- Policy On Disruptive Behavior

PLAGIARISM

You are expected to submit your own work in all your assignments, postings to the discussion board, and other communications, and to clearly give credit to the work of others when you use it. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F.”

- Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct
- Avoiding Academic Dishonesty

Turnitin Plagiarism Prevention

Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited.

Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information on Turnitin please click HERE.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

COURSE DEMO
GETTING STARTED

TUTORING
For information about possible tutoring for this course, please visit our Ecampus NetTutor page. Other resources include:

**Writing Center**  
**Online Writing Lab**

**STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING**

The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available in week 9 and close at the end of finals week. Students will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. Students will log in to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted. Course evaluation results are very important and are used to help improve courses and the learning experience of future students. Results from questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and unit heads/supervisors. Unless a comment is “signed,” which will associate a name with a comment, student comments on the open-ended questions are anonymous and forwarded to each instructor. “Signed” comments are forwarded to the unit head/supervisor.

**REFUND POLICY INFORMATION**

Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.