



ST. ALOYSIUS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), JABALPUR

Reaccredited 'A++' Grade by NAAC (CGPA:3.58/4.00)

College with Potential for Excellence by UGC

DST-FIST Supported & STAR College Scheme by DBT

Faculty of Arts

SUBJECT: English Literature

B.A. IV Semester

Paper: Discipline Specific Elective II(B) DSE

Autobiography and Memoir

Course Outcomes

CO. No.	Course Outcomes	Cognitive Level
CO1	Define and differentiate between various forms of life-writing, including autobiography, memoir, diary, and confessional narrative.	U, A
CO3	Understand and apply key theoretical concepts related to the study of autobiography, such as the "autobiographical pact," memory, and the construction of the self.	K
CO3	Examine the representation of identity, including gender, caste, race, and nation, in life-writing	U

Credit and Marking Scheme

	Credits	Marks		Total Marks
		Internal	External	
Theory	4	30	70	100
Total	4	MIN PASSING MARKS: 35		

Evaluation Scheme

Marks	
External 1 External Exams (At the End of Semester)	Internal Class Tests/Assignment/Presentation



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Content of the Course

No. of Lectures (in hours per week): 3 Hrs. per week

Units	Topics	No. of Lecture
I	i) Origin, Growth and Development of Autobiographies (<i>Atma-katha</i>) in India ii) Defining the Genre: Autobiography vs. Memoir; Biography vs. Autobiography iii) The Nature of Memory and Truth in Life-Writing: the relationship between Fact and Fiction. iv) Forms of Life-Writing: Confession, Diary, Spiritual Autobiography, Trauma Narrative, Graphic Memoir. Keywords: Swavritant, Atma Katha, Anubhav Vritta, Autobiography, memoir, biography, journal Activities • Journal writing: Write a journal for a week and record your experiences. • Reflective Self-Writing: Write about a challenge you faced. • Journal to memoir: Convert your journal into a memoir.	12
II	i) M.K. Gandhi: <i>The Story of My Experiments with Truth</i> (Part I, Chapters II to IX, pp. 5-26) ii) Jawaharlal Nehru: <i>An Autobiography</i> (Chapter VII: The Coming of Gandhiji: Satyagraha and Amritsar, pp. 40-47) Keywords: Truth, Satya, Ahimsa, Self-discipline, Moral Experiment, Self-Purification, Spiritual Autobiography, Confession, Satyagraha Activities: • Character Reflection: List key traits of Gandhi and Nehru as revealed in the chapters. • Mind Map: Link historical events (Satyagraha, Amritsar) with personal experiences. • Quote Analysis: Discuss the modern relevance of one striking line from each text. • Comparative Discussion: Compare Gandhi's self-exploration with Nehru's observation of his influence.	12



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III	i. B. R. Ambedkar: <i>Waiting for a Visa</i> (Section 4: Polluting the water in the fort of Daulatabad) ii. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam: <i>Wings of Fire</i> (Chapter 19, pp. 157-180) Keyword: Caste Discrimination, Untouchability, Social Justice, Equality, Human Rights, Oppression, Science, Technology, Perseverance, Innovation, Nation-Building, Self-Reliance Activities: • Analysis: Discuss the key event in <i>Waiting for a Visa</i> and its message on caste discrimination. • Character Study: Identify qualities of resilience and leadership in <i>Wings of Fire</i>. • Theme Comparison: Compare how both authors portray social barriers and personal determination. • Creative Dialogue: Create a brief dialogue between Ambedkar and Kalam on equality and education.	12
IV	i. Nirad C. Chaudhuri: <i>The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian</i> (Chapter 4: England from Book I, "Early Environment") ii. Kamala Das: <i>My Story</i> (Chapter 4) Keywords: Colonial India, Cultural Conflict, Identity Crisis, Anglophilia, Modernity, History, East-West Encounter Activities: • Contrast: Compare Western influence in Chaudhuri and Das. • Reader's Response: Describe in one line how each voice made you feel. • Quote Reflection: Interpret one key quote from each text. • Letter Writing: Write a short letter to either author sharing your reaction to their story.	12



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V	i. Benjamin Franklin: <i>Autobiography</i> (pp. 5-63) ii. Nelson Mandela: <i>Long Walk to Freedom</i> (Chapter 11: "Birth of a Freedom Fighter") Keywords: Self-Improvement, Virtue, Rationalism, Enlightenment, Pragmatism, American Dream, Empiricism, Introspection, Nature, Emotion, Authenticity, Self-Discovery, Inner Conflict, Confessional Writing Activities: • Value Mapping: List key values highlighted by both (e.g., discipline, freedom). • Parallel Lives: Compare one common struggle each faced and how they overcame it. • Quote Insight: Choose one quote from each text and write its modern relevance in one line. • Journal Entry: Write a short entry titled "A principle I live by," inspired by either figure.	12
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References

Suggested Readings:

- Ambedkar, B. R. Waiting for a Visa. In Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writing and Speeches, Vol. 12, Part I. Bombay: Education Department, Government of Maharashtra, 1993.
- Chaudhuri, Nirad C. The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian. London: Macmillan, 1951.
- Das, Kamala. My Story. Sterling Publishers, New Delhi: 1976.
- Franklin, Benjamin. The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin. Ed. W. Macdonald. : J.M. Dent and Sons, London, 1960.
- Gandhi, M. K. The Story of My Experiments with Truth. Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad, 1993.
- Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul, and Arun Tiwari. Wings of Fire: An Autobiography: Universities Press, Hyderabad, 1999.
- Mandela. Nelson. Long Walk to Freedom. Abacus, 1994.
- Nehru, Jawaharlal. An Autobiography. : Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2004.

Extended Readings:

- Anderson, Linda. Autobiography. Routledge, 2001.
- Eakins, Paul John. Fictions in Autobiography: Studies in the Art of Self-Invention. Princeton University Press, 1985.
- Gilmore, Leigh. The Limits of Autobiography: Trauma and Testimony. Cornell University Press, 2001.



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- Lejeune, Philippe. On Autobiography. Edited by Paul John Eakins, University of Minnesota Press, 1989.
- Olney, James. Metaphors of Self: The Meaning of Autobiography. Princeton University Press, 1972.
- Smith, Sidonle, and Julia Watson. Reading Autobiography. A Guide for Interpreting Life Narratives. University of Minnesota Press, 2010.
- Limbale, Sharankumar. Towards an Aesthetic of Dalit Literature: History, Controversies and Considerations. Orient Longman, 2004.

Digital links:

- Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi, Vols. 1-100 (Gandhi Heritage Portal: <https://www.gandhiheritageportal.org>)
- Collected Works offer. B. R. Ambedkar (Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Govt. of India: <https://drambedkarlbundation.nic.m>)
- Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Museum & Library Digital Archives: <https://www.nehrumemorial.nic.in>