ENG 4300-003: Biography, Autobiography, and Literature

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PAPERS

One short paper (5-7 pages) due Sept. Topics will require close attention to particular passages from the readings covered by that date.

One long paper (10-12 pages) involving outside reading/research. Paper due on the last day of class (Dec. 7).

ORAL PRESENTATION

Each student will be responsible for introducing one of the texts on the reading list. The introductory discussion will serve to acquaint the class with one piece of criticism on the work we will be discussing.

OTHER

Each time we begin discussion of a new work, students will hand in 2-3 written questions that arise from their assigned reading in that work. These questions should be ones that you think will be important to address in class discussion. These questions must be handed in at my office or mail box (or E-mailed to me) by 11:00 A.M. at the latest on the days we begin discussion of a new work.

GRADES

Four grades will be averaged for your final grade – one grade for each of the two papers; one grade for the oral introductory presentation; one grade for the quality on the written discussion questions you produce together with your general participation in class. (That means ATTENDANCE, among other things.

READING SCHEDULE

Aug. 24-Sept. 5    James Boswell: London Journal, 1762-1763
                   (pp. 1-206; pp. 259-end)
Sept. 7-26  James Boswell: *The Life of Johnson.*
(Pt. I-IV; p. 216-Pt. VII; Pt. IX-X)

Sept. 28-Oct. 3  Samuel Johnson: Selections from Journals; *The Life of Richard Savage.*

Oct. 5-17  John Ruskin: *Praeterita.*


Oct. 31-Nov. 7  Mary McCarthy: *Memories of a Catholic Girlhood.*

Nov. 9-16  Ian Hamilton: *In Search of J.D. Salinger.*

Nov. 28-30  Richard Rodriguez: *Hunger of Memory.*

Dec. 5-7  Virginia Woolf: *Orlando: A Biography.*