Fall Semester 2021, Tuesdays, 4:15-6:15

The Biographical Narrative: Forms of Life Writing, BM 70100

Updated Syllabus

**Tuesday, Sept. 7: NO CLASS. REMOTE FROM HERE ON OUT**

**Tuesday, Sept. 14:** The Art and Craft of Biography (excerpts will be sent, unless otherwise noted, likely by email): Richard Holmes, *Footsteps* (excerpt); Lytton Strachey, "Preface" to *Eminent Victorians* (easily available); Leon Edel, "The Figure in the Carpet," Catherine Drinker Bowen, "The Writing of Biography," Virginia Woolf, "The New Biography," Justin Kaplan, "The Culture of Biography."

**Tuesday, Sept. 21:** Biography and History: "Great" Men & Women; Edmund Morris (prologue, *Theodore Roosevelt*); Lytton Strachey, "Florence Nightingale," from *Eminent Victorians* (available online); Janet Flanner, "Fuehrer."

**Tuesday, Sept. 28:** History, Method, and Point of View: Robert A. Caro, excerpt on Richard Russell from *Master of the Senate*; Caro, *Working*

**Tuesday, Oct. 5:** Biography and Historical Sources: Robert A. Caro, *Working*, cont.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 12:** Biography and Historical Sources, and Point of View: Natalie Zemon Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*

**Tuesday, Oct. 19:** Biography and Sources, and Tone: Diane Johnson, *The True History of the First Mrs. Meredith*

**Tuesday, Oct. 26:** Research methods session. "Roundtable" discussion of projects.  
**Bibliographies due**

**Tuesday, Nov 2:** Biography and Ethics, and the Absent: Biography and Ethics: Janet Malcolm, *The Silent Woman. *


**Tuesday, Nov. 16:** Biography and the Found Imagination: Julia Blackburn, *Daisy Bates in the Desert: A Woman's Life Among the Aborigines *

**Tuesday, Nov. 23:** Biographical Fragments: Elizabeth Hardwick, *Sleepless Nights*; excerpts from Carolyn Heilbrun, "Writing a Woman's Life."

**Tuesday, Nov. 30:** Biographical Unbecoming: Adam Phillips, *On Becoming Freud.*

**Tuesday, Dec. 7:** The Rashomon Effect in Biographical Narrative: *Citizen Kane.* Concluding business, final questions, very short presentations on the future.

**Papers due.**