



New Course • Spring 2013

Spiritual Autobiography

Martha Serpas

Tues & Thurs 1:00-2:30

English 2308/Religion 2396

Section 39120

This course offers a comparative survey of ancient, modern, and contemporary spiritual autobiographies from Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Lakota Sioux traditions.

Augustine, Confessions.

Neihardt, Black Elk Speaks.

Haley, The Autobiography of Malcolm X.

Levine, Dharma Punx.

Winner, Girl Meets God.

Students will be introduced to the conversion narrative as a literary form and will also consider texts that diverge from that model. Major theological subjects will be raised for discussion, such as the nature of self and community; ethical living; suffering and death; reincarnation and after-life.

Two essays are required; a creative spiritual memoir may substitute for one critical essay.