Course title (English): Reading Women’s Literary and Life Writing
Course title (Hebrew): עיון בספרות ובכתיבת חיים של נשים
Course number: 132.1.0313
Course slot: Monday 10:00-12:00. Semesters 1 and 2
Lecturer's Office Hours and contact details:
Prof. Chanita Goodblatt
Monday 12:30-13:30. Or by Appointment. Building 74/Room 508
chanita@bgu.ac.il

Course Description & Objectives:
Life writing is an open and flexible term for a wide variety of texts, which record personal memories and experiences. It is a critical practice, which encourages both writer and reader to develop and foster her/his own self-consciousness in order to make the self-in-the-writing less abstract. This course will focus on five women writers, in order to study how this concept of self is developed within a dialogic relationship between literary works—fiction and poetry—and the genres of autobiography, letters and memoirs. The writers to be studied are both American and English: Louisa May Alcott, Vera Brittain, Hilda Doolittle (H.D.), Sylvia Plath and Elizabeth Bishop. Their respective works respond to major experiences of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries: the struggle of women against the conventional boundaries of family and society; the violence of war (both World War 1 and 2) and its traumatic consequences; and the process of creative, artistic development within these historic and cultural venues.

Course Requirements
1. Attendance and Reading (3 absences allowed)
2. Oral Referat. 15%
3. Written Referat (4-5 pages) 20%
4. Seminar Paper
   a. Outline and Annotated Bibliography 15%
   b. Completed Paper (15-18 pages) 50%
Topics & Bibliography

Primary Sources
1. A Woman’s Novel of Education
2. Women and World War I
3. Trauma and War
4. Independence and Mental Health
5. Sexuality and Privacy

Select Critical Sources