

## **MSt Special Subject: 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Life Writing Course outline 2018-19**

*The primary readings for some of the following sessions are quite extensive, so begin by reading **at least two** of the texts for each session, reading further for topics that particularly interest you. You should prepare written work for each meeting, for which you may devise your own essay title.*

### **Seminar 1 (1<sup>st</sup> week): Autobiography and Language**

Michel LEIRIS, *L'Age d'homme* (revised edition, 1946)  
Georges PEREC, *W ou le souvenir d'enfance* (1975)  
Roland BARTHES, *Roland Barthes par Roland Barthes* (1975)  
Nathalie SARRAUTE, *Enfance* (1986)

If you have already read Leiris's *L'Age d'homme* (or simply wish to extend your reading of him), you could read *Biffures* (1948), the first volume of *La Règle du jeu*, his monumental four-volume autobiography.

### **Seminar 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> week): Writing Mortal Limits**

Robert ANTELME, *L'Espèce humaine* (1957 [1947])  
Roger LAPORTE, *Moriendo* (1983)  
Maurice BLANCHOT, *L'Instant de ma mort* (1994)  
Louis-René DES FORÊTS, *Pas à pas jusqu'au dernier* (2001)

The preceding volume of Laporte's series of works (collected as *Une vie*) may help situate the final volume *Moriendo*: namely, *Suite* (1979). Likewise, for those unfamiliar with L-R des Forêts's other work, *Pas à pas* is a continuation of *Ostinato* (1997), and a related work of life-writing in a different genre is his poetic sequence, *Poèmes de Samuel Wood* (1988).

### **Seminar 3 (5<sup>th</sup> week): Writing Life: Creation and Constraint**

Chloé DELAUME, *J'habite dans la télévision* (2006)  
Sophie CALLE, *Douleur exquise* (2003) and *Prenez soin de vous* (2007)  
Anne F. GARRÉTA, *Pas un jour* (2002)

### **Seminar 4 (7<sup>th</sup> week): Life Writing in l'extrême contemporain**

Christine ANGOT, *Un amour impossible* (2015)  
Christophe BOLTANSKI, *La cache* (2015)  
Lydie SALVAYRE, *Pas pleurer* (2014)