Biography

Professor Daniel Todes, dtodes@jhmi.edu, office: Welch 304.
Spring 2013, SOM #150.719, Wednesdays 3:30-5:30, Welch Seminar Rm.

Requirements: 1) Weekly readings and class participation, 2) Oral report on your written project, 3) Written assignment: Choose ONE: a) An original research paper that takes a biographical approach to a life or part of a life, b) A biographically oriented dissertation proposal meeting the Program requirements (thesis itself is optional), c) A historiographical essay on at least two (if available, three) biographies of a single figure, or d) An essay on an issue concerning Biography as a genre.

January 30 Introductory session and choosing our biographies

February 6 Overview of history and issues in Biography


Samuel Johnson, [untitled], The Idler 84, Saturday, 24 November 1759, http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Texts/idler84.html


Virginia Woolf, “The Art of Biography” [1939], in Selected Essays, pp. 116-123. [ereserves]


February 13 Theory and craft of modernist biography

February 20  Issues and Reflections


February 27  More Issues and Reflections


Carlo Ginzburg and Marco Ferrari, “The Dovecote Has Opened Its Eyes,” in Muir and Ruggiero, eds., Microhistory and the Lost Peoples of Europe, pp. 11-19. [ereserves]

March 6   The Romantic biographer and his subject


March 13   Biography in History of Science and Medicine


    Thomas Soderqvist, “Existential projects and existential choice in science: science biography as an edifying genre,” Shortland and Yeo, eds., *Telling lives*, 45-84. [ereserves]

March 20   SPRING BREAK

One biography chosen by our class (see attached Short List) in the following categories:

March 27   A life, times, and work biography.

April 3    A thematic/focused biography

April 10   A dual/multiple biography

April 17   A biography of the unfamous

April 24   A biographical doctoral thesis

May 1      Final discussion
LIFE, TIMES, AND WORK


FOCUSED/THEMATIC


DUAL/MULTIPLE


UNFAMOUS


DOCTORAL


Susan Lamb, *Pathologist of the mind: Adolf Meyer, psychobiology and the Phipps Psychiatric Clinic at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, 1908-1917* (Johns Hopkins, 2010).


Kimberly Pelis, *Pasteur's imperial missionary: Charles Nicolle (1866-1936) and the Pasteur Institute of Tunis* (Johns Hopkins, 1995)