Final Portfolio Overview

COMPONENTS OF THE PORTFOLIO

1. Cover letter

Audience/primary purpose: Tell me what you've learned from this course.

Format: 1½-2 single-spaced pages

This letter of introduction will discuss where the items in your portfolio demonstrate the course goals and build a compelling argument for how they do so by drawing on the course readings, class discussions, and prior activities/assignments for concepts and evidence.

2. Artist's Statement/Creative Work

Audience/primary purpose: Introduce a public audience to your creative work.

Format: 250-350 words

This artist statement will provide an introduction to the photo(s) and/or poem(s) you feel best illustrates course goals that may be hard to explore in your final paper.

3. Final Paper

Audience/primary purpose: See assignment sheet

Format: 8-10 double-spaced pages

EVALUATION

A successful final portfolio will demonstrate your achievement of the course goals set out in the syllabus as follows:

- To develop a multifaceted understanding of the social functions and possibilities of language
- To enliven your capacities for making sense in both critical and creative modes
- To develop skills and strategies for effective collaboration as a learner, researcher, and teacher
- To cultivate critical awareness of the ethical, cultural, and political dimensions of the ideas you encounter and explore
- To formulate your own lines of inquiry and paths of exploration that synthesize or integrate different perspectives and approaches to constructing knowledge
- To demonstrate the ability to effectively address different audiences and contexts, in speech and writing, both within and outside the classroom
- To cultivate the ability to articulate and assess the effects of the choices you make in your writing

Outstanding Portfolio 3.7-4.0

This portfolio exhibits outstanding proficiency in all course goals. All pieces of writing are carefully polished through revision, editing, and proofreading so as not to distract the reader's attention from the purposes of the writing. The cover letter indicates clearly and with specificity where items in the portfolio demonstrate the course goals and makes a compelling argument for how they do so. In this manner, it displays thorough and thoughtful awareness of the writer's own writing, supporting and contextualizing claims and assertions with evidence from the course readings, class discussions, and prior assignments/activities by quoting or paraphrasing from these materials. The outstanding portfolio will also demonstrate appropriate risk-raking, originality, variety, and/or creativity.

Strong Portfolio 3.1-3.6

The strong portfolio exhibits strengths clearly outweighing weaknesses, but may show somewhat less proficiency in some element of the course goals. The cover letter indicates clearly and with specificity where items in the portfolio demonstrate the course goals and makes an effective argument for how they do so. It also displays thoughtful awareness of the writer's own writing, supporting and contextualizing claims and assertions with evidence from the course readings, class discussions, and prior assignments/activities by quoting or paraphrasing from these materials, but may not present as clear an argument for writing choices as the outstanding portfolio. This portfolio engages the course concepts and is highly successful with all the assignments, but may risk less than the outstanding portfolio.

Good Portfolio 2.5-3.0

The good portfolio also exhibits strengths outweighing weaknesses, but shows less strength in some element of the course goals. The cover letter indicates where items in the portfolio demonstrate the course goals and makes an argument for how they do so, but the argument may display less thoughtful awareness of the writer's own writing by less effectively using evidence from the course readings, class discussions, and prior assignments/activities in support of its argument. The portfolio usually will not display the appropriate risk-taking and creativity of the strong and outstanding portfolios.

Acceptable Portfolio 2.0-2.4

The acceptable portfolio is competent, demonstrating that the course goals are basically met, but the ability to discuss the work is not as fully realized or controlled. The strengths and weaknesses are about evenly balanced. Some parts of the selected texts may be underdeveloped, general, predictable, or leave relevant course concepts unconsidered. The cover letter indicates where items in the portfolio demonstrate the course goals, but may not make as effective an argument for how they do so, likely drawing less on evidence from the course readings, class discussions, and prior assignments/activities. There may be moments of excellence, but in general the portfolio simply meets successfully the basic requirements of the course.

Inadequate Portfolio 1.0-1.9

A portfolio will be inadequate when it shows serious deficiencies in any of the course goals. The portfolio cover letter may be brief and may not indicate which items in the portfolio demonstrate the course outcomes or make an effective argument for how they do so. The portfolio may show effort, but does not demonstrate success with the goals of the course.

Incomplete Portfolio 0.0-0.9

The incomplete portfolio covers the range, from no portfolio turned in (0.0), to a portfolio missing significant portions of the required work, to a portfolio including incomplete assignments.

FORMAT & SUBMISSION

	Format	*How*
Final paper	*.htm	email
Artist's Statement/Creative Work	*.htm, *.jpg	email
Cover letter *apologia*	*.doc	email

DUE BEFORE 5PM, WEDNESDAY, 12/13/06

NB: If any component of the final portfolio is submitted late
the portfolio will be considered incomplete.