SENIOR EXIT PORTFOLIO INFORMATION PACKET
For English Majors with a Concentration in Literature

SIGN UP: All students must register for Senior Exit Portfolio assessment online at http://www.wac.gsu.edu/EngDept/signup.php

DUE DATE: Senior Exit Portfolios are due by the midpoint of the semester in which you plan to graduate.

Please note that portfolios will not be accepted after the due date. Since a successful portfolio is a requirement for graduation, students who miss the deadline will not be able to graduate until the following semester.

HOW TO SUBMIT: Please label each essay in your Exit Portfolio with the year and semester in which you wrote it, and be sure to write or type your name in the upper right-hand corner of every page you submit.

Place all of your materials in a plain manila folder labeled with your name, address, phone number, concentration, and panther number. Submit the folder to the staff at the front desk of the English Department (on the 23rd floor of 25 Park Place).

Purpose of the Exit Portfolio

The state of Georgia is asking departments to assess their curricula as part of the graduation requirement. The English Department has chosen a portfolio because we think it will meet our needs and be useful to you as well.

Benefits for Students of the Exit Portfolio

Because the portfolio requires you to reflect on your coursework, it should help you understand what you have learned and why. Moreover, the portfolio can be easily adapted for potential employers and graduate school admissions committees; you will walk away from Georgia State University with evidence of the good work you have accomplished here.

Assessment of the Exit Portfolio

Portfolios will be read by two faculty members. In the event of widely divergent readings, a third faculty member will read the portfolio. A version of the online assessment form that the English Department’s faculty members will use when responding to your Exit Portfolio has been attached at the end of these instructions so that you can see how your work will be evaluated. You must revise and resubmit your portfolio if it is determined to be insufficient. In general, the faculty members who read your Exit Portfolio will determine
whether you have achieved a level of knowledge and writing ability expected of college graduates with a degree in English. The evaluators will focus attention on your overall accomplishments and consider both the depth of your responses in the sample essays and your improvement as a writer and reader over the course of your studies.

Evaluators will also examine your justification for each essay’s selection, your critical insights into your overall accomplishments, and the quality of your prose.

Contents of the Exit Portfolio

Each portfolio for English majors with a concentration in literature consists of two parts: a reflective essay and a representative sampling of essays from English classes taken at the sophomore, junior, and senior level.

The Reflective Essay (4-6 pages, typed and double-spaced): This essay provides the department with a sample of your best writing at the conclusion of your undergraduate career. You should reflect on your development as a reader and writer, think about the range of courses you have taken at Georgia State, and justify your selection of each essay in the portfolio. Your essay should demonstrate, above all, your ability to think and write clearly and intelligently about literature.

The Sample Essays (four to six essays): These papers should represent a variety of your undergraduate English courses taken at Georgia State. Please include at least one essay that reflects your understanding of critical theory and at least one essay that demonstrates your ability to incorporate research in your writing and to document your sources according to MLA Style. Please do not submit timed, blue-book examinations, as they do not adequately represent your writing.

Your portfolio should contain, if possible, clean copies of all of your essays—without instructors’ comments and grades. You may revise your essays before inserting them in your portfolio, and, if you composed multiple drafts of one essay, you may also label and submit those earlier versions.

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SENIOR EXIT PORTFOLIO—ASSESSMENT FORM – LITERATURE CONCENTRATION

Name of Student: ________________________________

Semester: ________________________________

| Ability to interpret texts, including identifying figurative language, observing literary and thematic patterns, reading for multiple meanings, applying knowledge of conventions from different periods and genres, reading and using scholarly and theoretical works, and evaluating critical arguments and construct alternative positions when necessary. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Inadequate | Can’t determine (explain below) |

| Ability to use basic elements of writing (such as grammar, punctuation, diction, syntax, and organization): |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Inadequate | Can’t determine (explain below) |

| Imaginative understanding of and engagement with the world of a literary text—i.e., awareness of the text’s historical, biographical, and/or literary contexts. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Inadequate | Can’t determine (explain below) |

Overall evaluation:

**Comments to student** (including comments on the presentation and the quality of thought):

Signature____________________________