Women’s and Gender Studies Minor Portfolio Instructions

**Deadline:** To be completed the semester of or the semester before graduation; portfolio should be submitted prior to scheduling an exit interview. Exit interview should be completed by Week 10 of the semester in which you will graduate.

Before graduation, a student minoring in Women’s and Gender Studies will submit a portfolio for review to the Women’s and Gender Studies Program Committee (WGSPC). The purpose of the portfolio is to provide you, as a Women’s and Gender Studies minor, an opportunity to:

- Develop a collection of work that best represents your engagement with and understanding of the Women’s and Gender Studies learning concepts.
- Reflect on how your coursework demonstrates your learning within the interdisciplinary field of Women’s and Gender Studies.
- Consider how your Women’s and Gender Studies learning applies to your experiences outside the classroom.

**What do I include in my portfolio?:**

- Three papers that illustrate your engagement with Women’s and Gender Studies learning concepts
- A reflective cover letter

The portfolio should include three papers that represent coursework from three different disciplines. These papers should be selected carefully, so that together they illustrate your breadth of knowledge within the field of Women’s and Gender Studies and confirm your engagement with the Women’s and Gender Studies learning concepts. Please give preference to major course projects, particularly assignments where you were asked to incorporate research. At least two of the papers you include in your portfolio should demonstrate research.

**How should I approach my reflective cover letter?:**

The first document in your portfolio will be a 2-3 page reflective essay. This reflective essay gives you the opportunity to introduce readers to the papers you’ve selected for your portfolio and to explain how the papers demonstrate your engagement with the following learning concepts. Students graduating with a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies should be able to demonstrate knowledge of:

1. The socio-cultural and historical construction of gender as a category of experience that intersects with race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality, at both local and global levels.
2. The contexts in which gender influences agency and disempowerment and how these contexts pertain to individuals’ lives, both historically and in contemporary society.
3. The varieties of feminism and feminist activism and how they connect to feminist theory and practice.

In your cover letter, you should plan to discuss how your portfolio demonstrates your understanding of each of these concepts and to explain to your readers where in your collection of material these concepts are illustrated.

One helpful way of framing your cover letter is to introduce each paper you’ve selected—what class is it from, what did the assignment entail—and explain how your work on the project allowed you to engage with a specific concept. What did you take away from this project in regards to your broader Women’s and Gender Studies learning? Did your work on this project change previous perceptions you may have had about the issue?

*Please be in touch with the Interim Women’s and Gender Studies Program Director, Dr. Liana Babayan (lbabayan@augusta.edu) with any questions. Remember, you will need to submit your portfolio before scheduling your exit interview.*

Revised: 31 October 2017
Frequently asked questions:

**What if I have a paper from a non-WGST class that I would like to use?:**

The portfolio may contain one project or paper undertaken outside of a Women’s and Gender Studies course that incorporates gender studies themes. If you opt to select a paper that was not completed in a WGST course, you will need to make sure to address why you have selected the paper in your reflective cover letter. The inclusion of a non-WGST paper must be approved by the director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program prior to submitting your portfolio.

**What if I have a group project that I completed for one of my Women’s and Gender Studies classes?:**

Group project inclusion must be approved by the director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program prior to submitting your portfolio. If approved, the student should write a 300-word explanation of her specific input into the group project and direct the reader to sections that the student authored herself.