

English 4111: Portfolios and Reflective Writing

The readings and writing assignments in this course will help you to reflect on your progress and development as a college student who spent the past four years reading, analyzing, thinking, and communicating by writing. Similarly, readings and writing assignments will also help you to reflect on your future as a professional who will, undoubtedly, continue to read, analyze, think critically, and communicate by writing.

Who is this course for?

- ✓ Required for all English majors
- ✓ Optional for everyone interested in improving their writing and revision skills (advanced writers, required composition sequence completed)
- ✓ Optional for everyone who is interested in learning (more) about theories of writing and portfolios

Why take the course?

For English majors...

- ✓ The portfolio that you create in the class can double as the portfolio you need to submit to the English department's assessment program

For English majors and non-English majors...

- ✓ Because you need a practical one-hour elective
- ✓ Because you are interested in demystifying how "good writing" happens
- ✓ Because you are interested in becoming a self-editor
- ✓ Because you are preparing to teach writing and are interested in learning more about theories of writing and portfolios
- ✓ Because you are interested in preparing a writing portfolio for your coming career search
- ✓ Because you are interested in revising your writing to include in your graduate school applications

Course Activities

- ✓ Weekly reading responses
- ✓ A portfolio that includes five essays you have already written as an English (or other) major at MSU
- ✓ A reflective cover essay for the portfolio where you consider the contents of your portfolio (your five essay selections), assessing the strengths of each paper and the practices – in reading, researching, drafting, and revising – that led to each completed work
- ✓ An application letter and resume