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21W.742J / SP.575J / WGS.575J Writing About Race
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21W.742J / SP.575J
 Writing about Race
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PREPARING YOUR PORTFOLIO FOR SUBMISSION

Our semester together is drawing to a close, and it is time for you to begin the process of review, reflection, and re-vision necessary to prepare your portfolio of your work of the semester to submit to me so that I can assign you a grade for the course. The following guidelines are to help you to make sure your portfolio is complete and arranged in a way that will facilitate my review of your work.

Here is what your portfolio must contain, and in this order:

- * Your reflections on your racial identity, assigned on the first day of class.
- * Your three essays, in the order in which you wrote them: for each, first submitted version (with my responses), revision (with my responses), and subsequent revision(s), if any.

Note: Substantive re-visions of your work are welcome and encouraged and, if genuinely successful, could raise your grade somewhat. Revisions will not in any case lower your grade, so you risk nothing in choosing to re-write, and grades aside, you stand to learn more from the revision process—always the real reason to do it. If you decide to do additional revisions, they should be inserted after the earlier revised and responded-to version. Even if you decide not to do any substantive revisions, **you must go through the last version of each essay and correct any editing problems (the check marks in the margins will be your guide).**

- * Your Reader's Notebook: Responses to **all** assigned reading and films (with my responses), except for the novel you signed up not to read, arranged in chronological order as assigned, with full bibliographic entry as heading for each and with pages numbered, plus a response/review of the outside event you attended. You can make sure your Notebook is complete by checking the schedule of assignments you were given for assigned reading for the semester. You should have notebook entries for every text assigned.

* For your final writing assignment of the semester, I would like you to return to the scrutiny of yourself with which we began the semester and to write **a profile of yourself now as a writer and reader with a racial/ethnic identity (however complex or indeterminate)**, after this semester of reading, thinking, talking, and writing. To prepare for your self-scrutiny, re-read the course syllabus, the handout on the Reader's Notebook, and the writing workshop guidelines you were given at the start of the semester as well as all the writing you've done this semester, as assembled above. With the course goals and processes and the work you've done fresh in your mind, ask yourself the following questions and address them in your profile: What have you learned in this course? Do you see yourself as a person of a particular racial/ethnic identity differently now than before, and if so, how? How does race fit into your view not only of yourself, but of your family, your wider community, the nation? What are you proud of as you review your experience of the course and look through your portfolio? How do you expect to continue to draw on what you've learned in this course in the future?

* Finally, prepare a brief **Introduction** and **Conclusion** to your portfolio (your "Collected Works"!), **number the pages of the portfolio sequentially throughout** (numbering in ink by hand is okay), and then prepare a **Table of Contents**. Please be sure that everything in the portfolio is labeled (Essay I, Revised; Reader's Notebook, etc.). And remember: ***no class notes, no handouts, no extraneous "stuff" is to be included in the portfolio.*** Place your portfolio securely in something that will hold it together—**no loose pages!** (Not in a manila file folder, in other words.) Also **be sure your name is clearly legible on the outside cover** of the portfolio.

In assessing your work and assigning grades, I will first check for completeness of your portfolio (all requirements must be met satisfactorily for a grade of C or better) and review your record of attendance, your preparedness for class (including workshops), your engagement and effort, active and interested participation, your performance as a discussion leader and on our radio broadcast, and your timely submission of the portfolio and of all assignments, notebook, and other assigned work. The primary determinant of your grade will be the quality of your written work.

Your completed portfolio is due at our final class meeting on SES #28.
I will not accept late portfolios.

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have. I hope you will enjoy the process of reflection, review, and re-vision which preparing your portfolio will entail, and I look forward to reading your work.