

History Department

Major Requirement: Portfolio

### Purpose of the Portfolio:

The purpose of the portfolio to assess the cognitive and critical thinking skills of History majors, including analysis, evaluation and integration. Students will engage in self-reflection to understand and assess their learning process as a History major at Rowan University. The portfolio will assist majors in compiling samples of their work for job interviews and graduate school applications. Faculty will utilize the portfolios for students' benefit, such as writing letters of recommendation. In addition, aggregate data from the portfolios will be used to assess the efficacy and rigor of the History program. While the portfolio allows the faculty to examine student learning holistically, it also helps students understand how they have grown as learners during their undergraduate careers.

### Learning Outcomes of the Portfolio:

Students will evaluate the significance and contribution of the portfolio items to their learning.

Students will reflect on their historical knowledge, source use and writing ability.

Students will analyze their learning as history majors over the course of their undergraduate career.

### Instructions

Students will submit their portfolio in Word format (No pdfs allowed) to Google Drive during the semester they are enrolled in the Senior Seminar course. Students will receive a link via email to access Google Drive at the end of the semester.

### Portfolio Components

The portfolio should include the following:

1. The Portfolio Checklist (see form below)
2. Five examples of student work:
  - a. Two must be the Historical Methods and Senior Seminar research papers
  - b. The other three items should represent three of the following types of historical writing:
    - i. Abstract, Research Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, Critical Book Review, Peer Assessment, Library Research Project, Source Analysis (Document, Film, etc.), or Historiographical Essay.
3. Self-Assessment (see Part I and Part II below). The written self-assessment should be no more than 5 pages in length, double-spaced and paginated.

### Part I (maximum of 2 pages):

Review the five items in your portfolio and answer the following questions:

1. Which item is your most satisfactory work in terms of learning? Why?
2. Which item is your least satisfactory work in terms of learning? Why?

### Part II (maximum of 3 pages):

Re-read your Historical Methods and Senior Seminar papers and address the following questions:

1. Analyze your use of primary evidence in the two papers in supporting your thesis and making an argument.
2. Compare and contrast the two papers to comment on your historical knowledge, research capability and analytical ability.
3. Assess your writing in each paper and comment on the evolution of your writing skills.

Portfolio Checklist

<u>Portfolio Items</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Professor</u>	<u>Semester/Year</u>
<i>Historical Methods</i> paper (required)	<i>Historical Methods</i>		
<i>Seminar Paper</i> (required)	<i>Senior Seminar</i>		
Annotated Bibliography			
Research Proposal			
Abstract			
Source Analysis			
Critical Book Review			
Peer Assessment			
Library Research Project			
Historiographical Essay			