

## Research Portfolio (HPAN5/6028) Guidance Notes

Using one of the news items provided construct a portfolio of 2 pieces of work. Submit all 2 pieces TOGETHER as one document.

### Word Count

- Level 5 students
  - Total: 4500 words, or equivalent; contextualising document of 3000 words (75%), 1 further doc (25%).
- Level 6 students
  - Total: 5000 words, or equivalent; contextualising document of 3500 words (75%), 1 further doc (25%).

### What needs to go in the portfolio?

2 pieces of work submitted as one document.

You are expected to be creative in the compilation and design of your portfolio. This will be achieved through the production of 2 different documents that together work to explore the theme you have chosen in variety of ways.

The bulk of your word count will be dedicated to a ***covering piece that functions as a contextualising document***. The further piece of the portfolio acts to support/develop the analysis you have offered in your first piece. It will explore a similar topic/theme but by using a different method to present the material.

### What is a contextualising document?

A contextualising document allows the reader to understand the context (framework, environment, perspective) in which the rest of the portfolio sits. Therefore, it begins the journey for the reader and as such must inform them of the direction of travel they are about to take. If, for example, you had chosen a news item on LGBTQ rights in Iran, you would need to explain that your portfolio will be using reportage on LGBTQ rights in Iran to think about sexuality in other cultures, or perhaps about the correspondences between sexuality and social control, or perhaps you might want to explore heteronormativity and the subordination of 'the other' around the world – and the rest of the portfolio would develop that theme through the use of different methods of dissemination.

Your contextualising document must consider how social ideas associated with either the family, marriage, gender or sexuality are deployed by the news item you have chosen. Therefore, you should not simply describe, outline or reiterate what is covered in the article. Your work must critically analyse and tease out the motivating sentiments, assumptions and biases used by the piece. You can do this by thinking carefully about the use of language, tone, imagery, methods of presentation and persuasion; by thinking about the author's credentials, the global context at the time of publishing and what news outlet brought it to our attention, alongside using the theory and approaches that the course has covered. This will enable you to successfully deconstruct and draw out the underlying social meanings that the article employs, which should help you think deeper about how society, the media and culture shapes the way one can think about these topics.

## What next?

Once you have an idea of what you want to explore, you need to think about what other kind of document you want to include in the portfolio. Each type of document has its own strengths and weaknesses. You will need to think about which method best suits what it is you want to say.

### Examples of documents available:

- i. Literature review or annotated bibliography (min 5 entries using peer reviewed sources only)
- ii. Glossary of terms (10 entries) (This is not a dictionary or list of definitions!!)
- iii. Pinterest Board. (See section 'Further Guidance' below.)
- iv. Video Presentation. (See Further Guidance.)
- v. Educational Pamphlet (for certain age group/demographic)
- vi. Infographic. (See Further Guidance.)
- vii. Academic Poster (See Further Guidance.)
- viii. Photo essay. (See Further Guidance.)

Each document you create for your portfolio might be usefully thought of as one of 2 linking 'threads'. How you draw the threads together is up to you. For example, you might want to think through your topic by illustrating, describing and then critically considering how anthropology approaches kinship. If this were the case, then an educational pamphlet or a presentation might be the most effective methods to use; the educational pamphlet allows you to illustrate and describe different cultural ideas about family and the presentation affords you the time to critically engage with how kinship studies is approached by Anthropology.

If you'd prefer to outline some of the cultural contradictions and tensions that sit alongside a Euro-American perspective on marriage, you might think an infographic or Pinterest board is best suited. On the other hand, if you are interested in thinking about the future and how the attribution and cultural importance of gender has altered, you might create a timeline of developments in thought and behaviours to imagine what the future might bring by using an academic poster and photo essay.

### Summary of tasks

Therefore, to complete your portfolio, you need to pick a news item, write a contextualising document, then pick another method to create supporting resources that rehearse similar arguments but in a different manner (e.g.: by using illustrations).

### Further Guidance

**Pinterest Board** - An academic Pinterest board is not just a collection of images with a common theme. It's a board or 'folder' with pinned images in it that together build a pictorial

representation of a subject. It's up to you how many images you include on your board, but no fewer than 10 pins on it, please.

See Prof Jess for an example. <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/profjess/social-theory-sociological/>

Each image or pin needs to link to the overall theme your portfolio is covering, and each needs information explaining its relevance on your board. Aim for a range of images but remember that the more tangential they appear to you, the more tangential they will appear to your marker. Consequently, make sure you explain them adequately and in good detail.

Submit the URL to the Pinterest board on a Word doc. Include a brief description that outlines the rationale and aims to help the marker understand the reason for your board, and why you have opted for this method.

**Presentation Guidance** - PowerPoint is a visual aid and should be used as such. Do not crowd your slides with lots of writing; only use brief bullet points or 'headlines', if possible. You should work to create or find images that convey the point you are hoping to make, rather than rely on writing. Quotations on slides are acceptable but must always be referenced correctly. As you are writing very little on your slides they must come with explanatory notes or a script. The script can be up to 1,000 words and should be designed to clearly guide the reader/viewer through the presentation.

You can opt to present the slides and record yourself speaking the script or you can simply offer them in writing alongside the PP for the marker to read. You do not need to read out your references but obviously you must include a full and complete list. The purpose of your script is to explain your slides in more depth. It should therefore not include your own prompts and personal reminders, but instead be clear and coherent explanation of what each slide is about.

Please save your PP as a PDF or Word doc with notes so that you can submit all components of the portfolio as one document.

**How to save PowerPoint as PDF with notes included:**

1. Open your **PowerPoint** presentation.
2. Click 'File' > 'Print'.
3. Via the 'Layout' section, click the dropdown.
4. Choose '**Notes**' instead of 'Slides'.
5. Choose 'Save as **PDF**' and click 'Save'.

**Infographic** – an infographic is a way to communicate academic info to a wider, non-academic audience visually, typically using graphs. Therefore, you have to 'translate' your ideas to make them accessible to people outside of academia. Infographics use easy to grasp visuals to make one clear point at a time.

See Youtube tutorial of how to do this in Word or as a PDF  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mHXMLXxjGqI>

**Academic Poster** - An academic poster summarises and presents your research using imagery and a small amount of text (+/- 500 words). An academic poster always has a reference list on it.

Link to a tutorial: <https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ld/resources/presentations/designing-poster/designing-poster>

**Photo Essay** – To create a photo essay you need to take the photographs yourself. Photo essays typically follow one of two paths: narrative or themed. If you create a narrative photo essay, you will use your photos to tell a story. If you opt for a thematic essay, they photos will be themed (photos that cohere due to similarities). You need to come up with a title, explain your intentions and provide accompanying text with each photo. Don't forget the ref list!

Great examples and advice can be found here: [https://culanth.org/photo\\_essays](https://culanth.org/photo_essays) and here <http://anthronow.com/tag/photo-essay>

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## General Marking Guidance for the Portfolio (also see Marking Criteria)

- Display a broad knowledge of the subject (chosen topic AND research methods): 20%
- Demonstrate an awareness of the intellectual and historical context of your research question and methodological debates: 10%
- Engage critically with the material and its application to your chosen research topic: 40%
- Write up and present research findings with structure, clarity, good grammar and good use of visual tools: 20%
- Follow established scholarly conventions on referencing and bibliography: 10%

### General Marking Guidance for Visual Work (covers the academic poster, photo essay, infographic and PP)

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Visual Presentation | Stylistically excellent and appropriate visuals that support the structure of the argument.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Structure           | A clear and coherent structure that successfully engages visuals to support a well-presented argument; specifically, visuals used to contextualise the argument. Inclusion of a conclusion which clearly states the outcomes of the work and concludes the argument. A full and complete reference list. |