Top Tips for Portfolio Courses

If you are teaching on a portfolio development course you need to ensure that this is not just developing work <u>for</u> a portfolio, but also includes developing the <u>skills</u> to structure and present a portfolio.

These courses are referenced as a resource for those applying to UAL :
https://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/short-courses/portfolio-preparation-short-courses

Please ensure that you include the following in your course:

<u>An opportunity to look at examples of portfolios.</u>
There are many videos available on YouTube. These do not need to be presented as "correct" but can form the start of a conversation around portfolio contents and structure.
Use professional online portfolios as examples but consider the differences in purpose between a professional and student portfolio.
If at all possible, show physical examples of actual student portfolios.

<u>An opportunity to discuss what a good portfolio might look like</u>
Consider what can be included in a portfolio. Many learners assume it can only be finished "final pieces" Learners need to consider that value of including developmental work.
Consider what order a portfolio needs to be in. What is the narrative or story you are telling with your work?
Consider how you can use space and focus in your portfolio. A development page may be full and then a finished outcome may sit alone on an empty page.
TOP TIP
An activity using prints of a well-known artists work (particularly one where sketchbook pages and test works are available) can be useful to get learners to consider presentation, selection, narrative and focus without being bogged down with it being their own work.

<u>An opportunity to discuss what a portfolio needs to be</u>
What skills are you trying to showcase in the portfolio? What does the course you are applying for want you to demonstrate? Consider the value of looking at course outlines carefully and reading the portfolio request fully.

<u>Demonstrate good practice in mounting and labeling work</u>
Encourage taking time and space to construct a portfolio.
Encourage standardization in labelling of work

<u>Discussion of online portfolios</u>
Most people will need to submit a digital portfolio first. Consider how this may reflect the physical portfolio. Each "image" of digital submission can be a "page" from a portfolio and so may contain more than one image.

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RESOURSES:

UAL Portfolio Advice Videos available online can be used as discussion points in class.
Glasgow school of art has examples of portfolios online: https://www.gsa.ac.uk/study/undergraduate-degrees/how-to-apply/portfolio-examples/ (scroll though the guidance and the examples start about half way though each PDF)

Most other universities also have "portfolio advice" pages on their websites.

Non university specific :
https://www.tate.org.uk/art/student-resource/applying-art-school