

HUMI 1 – Creative Minds

De Anza College – Spring '15 - 4 units

Instructor: Lori Clinchard, Ph.D.; clinchardlori@deanza.edu

Office: F2 bldg.; M/T/W/Th – 12:30-1:20

Stop by my office to say hi, to ask questions, or for tea, snacks, and conversation.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of creativity in human life, its sources, development, social purposes, and role in culture change. Students analyze creativity as a central source of meaning and purpose in their lives as well as a development of their unique combination of human intelligences. Lives of creative people from all over the world are examined and contextualized.

***Note:** This course is specifically designed to build commitment to civic and moral responsibility for diverse, equitable, healthy and sustainable communities. Students are expected to recognize themselves as members of larger social fabrics and to develop the abilities and willingness to take informed action for change.

Required Reading:

1. Berns, Gregory. (2010). **iconoclast: a neuroscientist reveals how to think differently.** Boston: Harvard Business Press.
2. Wheatley, Margaret and Deborah Frieze. (2011). **Walk Out Walk On.** San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

***Note:** several copies of both texts are on reserve in the De Anza library, available for checkout.

Some underlying assumptions of this course:

“Almost anything good you do will seem insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.” -- Gandhi

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” -- Margaret Mead

“There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come. — Victor Hugo

“Optimism is a political act. Those who benefit from the status quo are perfectly happy for us to think nothing is going to get any better. In fact, these days, cynicism is obedience.” -Alex Steffen

“To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong.” — Joseph Chilton Pierce

“We see the world not as it is, but as we are.” – Anais Nin

Course Requirements:

1) **Weekly Creative Minds Worksheet – 35 pts. each x 10 = 350 pts**

These are handwritten responses to the weekly reading assignments, in-class material, and the group dialogues – due in class on Thursdays. You must be present to turn in the worksheet, but it may be turned in late the following Thursday for a loss of 10 points (so an A paper would become a C paper, essentially)

2) **3 Reflection Papers = 100 points each (x 3) = 300 points total**

Turn in a 5 page paper (12 font; double-spaced) once every 3 weeks.

Due Monday of wks. 5, 8, & 11 (may be turned in the following Monday for a loss of 15 points (that's 1½ letter grades; ex: B+ >> C)

- (a) Reflection Question responses (questions provided by instructor)
- (b) Personal experiment reports (see handout)

3) **Dialogue Lead – 25 points**

- a) Prepare 4 thoughtful questions for one group dialogue session (sign-up)
- b) Make sure you give context and/or examples in your questions
- c) Lead table group in a 20 minute dialogue session using your questions
- d) Turn typed question sheet in at the end of the period.

3) Final Essay: – 100 pts.

This paper will describe and analyze what you have learned in this course about CREATIVITY and its relationship to CHANGE. Make sure you draw upon in-class material, the two texts, and your personal experiments. Aim for breadth and depth.

- 6 full pages (typed; 12 font; double-spaced)
- Due Monday of Finals week

Grading: Total points possible = 775 pts.

Weekly Worksheets = 350 pts.

Reflection Question + Personal Experiment Papers = 300 pts

Dialogue Lead = 25 pts.

Final Paper = 100

Grading Scale

A-=90%; A=93%; A+=97% / B-=80%; B=83%; B+=87% / C=73%; C+=77%

D-=60%; D=63%; D+=67% / F=<60%

Absences: You may be dropped after a total of 4 absences. However, it is your responsibility to make sure you are dropped if you stop attending. You may otherwise receive a non-passing grade.

In-class expectations:

Let's honor and respect our learning environment in every way we can: give each other our care and attention; avoid electronic and other distractions; listen and make space for deep listening....

Course Outline

Week 1 – Creative Minds (4/6)

Introductions; WHAT is creativity & WHY does it matter?

Week 2 – Being Creative: Play (4/13)

Read: iconoclast – Ch. 1: Through the Eye of an Iconoclast

Read: Walk Out... - Part I: Leaving Home

Week 3 – Finding Your Element (4/20)

Read: iconoclast – Ch. 2: From Perception to Imagination

Read: Walk Out... - Part II: Journeying – Mexico

Week 4 – The Trouble with Education (4/27)

Read: iconoclast – Ch. 3: Fear—the Inhibitor of Action

Read: Walk Out... - Part II: Journeying – Brazil

Week 5 – Understanding Intelligence (5/4)

Due: 1st Reflection Paper + Personal Experiment report

Read: iconoclast – Ch. 4: How Fear Distorts Perception

Read: Walk Out... - Part II: Journeying – South Africa

Week 6 – Culture: the Stories we tell (5/11)

Read: iconoclast – Ch. 5: Why Fear of Failure Makes People Risk Averse

Read: Walk Out... - Part II: Journeying – Zimbabwe

Week 7 – Historical Influences (5/18)

Read: iconoclast – Ch. 6: Brain Circuits for Social Networking

Read: Walk Out... - Part II: Journeying – India

Week 8 – Freedom & Psychology (5/25)

Due: 2nd Reflection Paper + Personal Experiment report

Read: iconoclast – Ch. 8: When Iconoclast Becomes Icon

Read: Walk Out... - Part II: Journeying – Greece

Week 9 – Conformity (6/1)

Read: Walk Out... - Part II: Journeying – United States

Week 10 – Courage & Vulnerability (6/8)

Read: Walk Out... - Part III: Returning Home & Part IV: Reflections

Week 11 – Apathy & Action (6/15)

Due: 3rd Reflection Paper + Personal Experiment report

In-class material only

Week 12 – Finals week (6/22)

Monday: Final Essay Due (in class and Turnitin) + 2pts homemade food to share

Absences: You may be dropped after a total of 4 absences. However, it is your responsibility to make sure you are dropped if you stop attending. You may otherwise receive a non-passing grade.

Extra credit options (10 points); choose one only:

- 1) Participate in a volunteer workday at San Jose non-profit community farm, Veggielution. Write a 2 page response paper (double-spaced, 12 font, typed); attach some physical evidence of your visit; **OR**
- 2) Watch the film “Connected: a film for change” (documentary available online), and analyze the film in relation to the “walk out walk on” book (2 page response paper; double-spaced, 12 font, typed); **OR**
- 3) Create an artistic representation of your learning about creativity; make an appointment to see me in my office; spend approx. 20 minutes presenting and discussing your work with me.
- 4) **Due by Monday of week 10** (no exceptions) – ok to turn in anytime during quarter

****Additional extra credit: 2 pts for bringing homemade food to share on last day**

Honors Option:

An Honors cohort is being offered in this section. Eligibility requirements can be found at www.deanza.edu/honors. If you are interested, please contact Mehrdad Khosravi, Honors Program Coordinator at dahonors@fhda.edu or at 408-864-8833 for approval. The cohort entails additional work, **most notably, an informal research paper on an agreed-upon topic**. You must commit to participating in the Honors cohort by the end of the first week of the quarter by dropping the current section of this course and adding the Honors section with a separate add code. You must also sign a written contract with me. Once you commit to the Honors portion, you will be expected to complete the extra work. Failure to complete the Honors work will result in a lowering of your regular class grade by 2/3 of a grade (ex: A- to B; B+ to B-; B to C+; etc.).