Psychology of Creativity
PSY 6346-D10
Spring 2018
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Cheryl Stenmark
Office Location: A104A
Office Hours: M: 12pm-4pm; T/Th: 12pm-3pm
E-mail address: cstenmark@angelo.edu

Required Textbook:
Explaining Creativity: The Science of Human Innovation (2nd ed.) by R. Keith Sawyer

Course Description:
Creativity involves the generation of an idea that is both novel and valued, and it is critical to aspects of our lives, ranging from mundane (e.g., solving personal and interpersonal problems) to profound (creating works of art, making scientific discoveries). As the world changes in complexity, creativity becomes increasingly one of the most important personal and business strategies for survival and success. This class will examine psychological theories and research focusing on creative thinking and accomplishment. Students will also develop techniques and skills for innovation and effective problem solving applied to real life issues.

Course Prerequisite:
Introduction to Psychology (PSY 2301)

Course Materials Online: The syllabus, announcements, and grades for this class may be found on Blackboard. I encourage students to access this site regularly for important information pertaining to the course. Thus, it is imperative that you have proficient knowledge of operating and, to some extent, troubleshooting, internet browsers, the Blackboard course management system, Respondus, word processing programs, and e-mail. Should you have any technical problems with Blackboard, Respondus, or your e-mail, it is your responsibility to get the situation resolved immediately. While I can help with a limited amount of trouble-shooting, your best resource for solving these problems is the ASU IT department. Thus, it is a good idea not to leave assignments until the last minute, in case you encounter technical problems.

Please see the “Getting Started” document, posted in the Information section in Blackboard for an introduction to the use of Blackboard and the components involved in this course, and refer to the Support Tab in Blackboard with questions over the use of Blackboard and Respondus.

Requirements:
The text for the course is listed above. The last page of the syllabus lists the tentative schedule of topics. The course is built around the textbook. I suggest that you read the material prior to reading the course lectures. The lectures will be related to but will not come directly from the text. There are exams, assignments, and group projects for the class; these are described below.
Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, you should:

- Have a foundational knowledge of the history and development of the creativity theories presented in the textbook, understanding the components of each creativity model or approach, and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of each model.
- Be able to what you have learned from the textbook, identifying practical uses of creativity theory in other contexts, and recognition of your own skills relative to the leadership approach being studied.
- Be able to connect the concepts and behaviors learned in class to other ideas, people and realms of life. For example, how is creative problem-solving different from other problem-solving? What makes a solution creative? How does the context of creativity (such as medicine, music or science) affect the expectations and outcomes of ideas?
- Understand the human dimension of creativity; learning about yourself and others. How does knowing about creativity theory help one to function and relate to others more effectively? How useful are the various creativity models and approaches for developing creativity skills in others?
- Develop new interests in creativity or caring about creativity to a greater extent than before. Students who care become engaged in issues outside of the classroom and continue to develop their skills.

Make-Up Work:
Late work or make-up work will not be considered unless the student is involved in a university-approved absence. Arrangements should be made with the instructor as far in advance as possible to ensure agreement on interpretation and the make additional arrangements.

Related Policies

Delivery of instruction: This course is delivered completely online. Assignments and activities will be listed on the course website on the Blackboard course management system. It is IMPERATIVE that you keep up with this class, checking Bb regularly, and noting due dates for assignments and quizzes. It is easy to forget about online classes, but be forewarned that I will not accept late work, and there is no excuse for forgetting about assignments!
Additionally, you MUST use (check daily) your ASU e-mail address for this class, as it is the best way for me to contact you.

Communications: I must be able to contact all students in this course via e-mail. It is expected that students regularly check their e-mail and Blackboard (at least once a day is preferred). The best way to contact me is via e-mail. Although I answer e-mail regularly (and relatively quickly) throughout the work week (Monday - Friday, 7:30AM to 4:30PM), I respond to it less frequently on weekends and holidays. During those times, you can expect an answer to your e-mail within 24-48 hours. There may be times during the semester, when I do not have access to email. I will be sure to notify students if such situations occur.

If you are on campus and would like to drop by my office, please feel free to do so. As I am often away from my desk, it is probably best to arrange a specific time in advance. Please email me to do so.

Notice on Disability Accommodation: If a student has a disability that may prevent the student from fully demonstrating his/her abilities, the student must contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss reasonable accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate his/her educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to notify me and provide authorized documentation processed through the designated administrative channels.
**Graded Items:**

**Chapter Summaries:** This very interesting book has far too many chapters to cover in one course. I tried to select chapters based on a broad appeal to most students, for us to cover in class. That, however, leaves out many other interesting chapters! Thus, for each exam period, I would like you to read one additional chapter to those assigned, and summarize the chapter. Please describe the chapter’s key takeaway points, and how those points can be applied (broadly), and how you might personally use what you learned in the chapter. Additionally, please discuss anything that you found surprising, or just particularly compelling from the chapter. These assignments will probably be 2-3 pages. They will be due at the time each exam is due (Sunday at 11:59pm of exam week).

**Exams:** There will be four (4) exams, including the final, covering material from the textbook as well as lectures and discussions. The exams are worth 100 points each. These exams will contain 50 questions, and you will have 60 minutes to complete each exam, and you will have TWO attempts; the highest grade will count. Exam items may include multiple choice, matching and true/false items. The final exam will not be comprehensive. **There will be NO make-ups scheduled for the exams.** You will have the entire week (beginning Monday at 12:00am, ending Sunday at 11:59pm) to complete the exams; that means that you may take the exam any time during those days, but the exam must be COMPLETED by 11:59pm on Sunday of the exam weeks.

**Quizzes:** Each week, you will have a quiz to complete that covers the topic of the unit being covered that week. These are designed to help students keep up with and apply the material. You will have the entire week (beginning Monday at 12:00am, ending Sunday at 11:59pm) to complete the weekly assignment or quiz, and given their nature they may not be “made up”. There will be NO exceptions. Quizzes will be multiple choice, and they will be timed. You will have TWO attempt for each quiz; the highest grade will count. Quizzes are worth 10 points each, and they will cover both material from the text and material from the Power Point lectures. There will be 12 assignments/quizzes, each worth 10 points, and I will drop your 2 lowest grades, for a total of 10 quizzes.

**Weekly Discussion Board Posts:** Each week, each student will be required to respond directly to two discussion questions that I have posted pertaining to the topic of the unit that is being covered that week and respond to a colleague’s post at least once. Your discussion posts are due by Sunday of each week at 11:59pm. There are 12 weeks of Discussion Boards, but I will drop 2 weeks’ worth, for the occasional slip-up, should you forget or become sick.

The response must be substantive; more than just “I agree” discussion board posts. These posts are worth 5 points each. Be considerate and appropriate when using the discussion board. It is neither a public forum nor a limited public forum. I have the right to remove any message for the purposes of saving space, focusing attention of students on relevant materials, and avoiding material inappropriate for the classroom. On this last note, with freedom comes responsibility. Please keep in mind, as you contribute to the discussion board, that not everyone comes from the same background, or shares the same values and ideals. Please be appropriate (professional) and considerate of others. If you have any questions on this matter, contact the instructor for clarification.

Please apply this same courtesy whenever communicating with anyone in the course, whether it is myself or another student, in any way, including e-mail, discussion board responses, and any other communication.

**Course Project:** For the course project, I would like you to team up into groups of 2-3, and perform a written analysis of 1) a creative person, 2) a creative organization, or 3) a specific creative product/process. Please include a discussion of the traits, motivations, creativity productivity, and environmental obstacles and opportunities involved in whatever/whomever is the focal point of your analysis.

All assignments should be typed and presented in a professional manner. You may always turn in assignments early; I will accept them prior to their scheduled due date.
Grades will be posted on Blackboard as they become available.

**Grading:** The course grade will be based on:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Summaries</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 tests</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Project</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>850</strong></td>
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**Testing via Respondus™ Monitor**

Access to quizzes and exams will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser and will be video recorded via Respondus™ Monitor [See Other Required Materials below for a list of needed equipment]. Use of another electronic device is prohibited.

There are two practice quizzes: a) one is a Webcam test and b) a short 10 question practice quiz over ASU trivia that is not graded. These tools will be available to the student to assure accessibility. Students are highly encouraged to go through these practice quizzes in advance of taking a graded quiz. This process will allow you to become familiar with the technology associated with testing and improve the testing environment. These quizzes, instructional videos, and more information regarding Respondus Monitor can be found under the Respondus Monitor Help tab in your Blackboard course.

**OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS**

- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet adapter cable highly recommended (wireless connections can drop during tests and Collaborate sessions)
- Webcam

Refer to Angelo State University's Distance Education website for further technology requirements:

http://www.angelo.edu/distance_education

**HELPFUL LINKS**

As you may know, Respondus Monitor is a companion tool to Respondus LockDown Browser. Monitor is a tool to proctor the online exam. Here is some more information regarding Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor:

http://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

For information on ASU’s honor code, please visit the following website:
http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf. If you have any doubts or questions about what constitutes misconduct—inform yourself. Not knowing—is not an excuse! Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in my class. Students involved in misconduct will be prosecuted according to University regulations and procedures.
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION:

Writing: Substantive content and the quality of the student's writing will be considered in all written assignments, including discussion board postings. Substantive content includes closely following instructions for the content of the assignment. Quality of writing covers clarity of expression and organization, appropriate use of references and academic writing style, use of inclusive language, and correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Please contact the instructor if this is unclear or needs further explanation.

Discussion Board Participation: Elements included in the evaluation of discussion board participation will include evidence of critical thinking, clear identification of the issues, understanding problems, and the ability to propose and evaluate solutions. All participants are expected to welcome open expression of opinions, attitudes and beliefs and to accept the legitimacy and value of dissent. In addition to respect for the ideas of your classmates and the instructor, common courtesy is also expected.

OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.

Deadlines: NO LATE WORK will be accepted in this course. Exceptions will be made only for serious illness or emergency and then only after discussion with the instructor. Please contact the instructor by telephone or email if an emergency situation occurs.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/ Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Jan 15</strong></td>
<td>Syllabus, Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Conceptions of Creativity</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Personality</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td><strong>Test 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>1, 2, 4</strong></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Creative Process, Part 1</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Feb 19</strong></td>
<td>Creative Process, Part 2</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Creative Process, Part 3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td><strong>Test 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>5-7</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 19</td>
<td>Sociology of Creativity</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 26</td>
<td>Group Creativity</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Apr 2</td>
<td>Organizational Creativity</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Apr 9</td>
<td><strong>Test 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>11-13</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>Education and Creativity</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Apr 23</td>
<td>How to be more Creative</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Apr 30</td>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><strong>May 7</strong></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td><strong>21, 22, 3</strong></td>
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