

CCT 602: CREATIVE THINKING SYLLABUS -Fall 2007

Dr. Nina Greenwald

Office: W-2-142-10; Office Hours: Tues. 2-3:30 (or by appointment)
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Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of the course, each student should be able to demonstrate:

- An increased understanding of the creative person, the creative process (within the context of normal cognitive processing), and the techniques for enhancing creative functioning.
- Increased self-actualization and skill in creative thinking (sensitivity to problems, fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration through visual and verbal exercises).
- Increased knowledge of the application of the concepts and the development of lesson plans and/or scholarly papers.

Authentic thinking, thinking that is concerned about reality, does not place in ivory tower isolation, but only in communication. Without dialogue there is no communication, and without communication there can be no true education.

--Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

Course Requirements:

1. ALL READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS DONE ON TIME

This permits informed, active participation in class exercises and discussions
-- a **key** part of the course.

2. JOURNAL KEEPING: NOTEBOOK OF THE MIND

The goal of this journal is to document the unfolding of your own experiences and growth in the course. It should offer you a record of the changes in your thinking, actions, and attitudes. It should include comments on, and connections between the readings, class events and outside experiences.

a. Make a journal entry each week. Hand in first journal entry
Week 2 so we can provide you feedback on this type of assignment.

b. Creativity Class "scrapbook" contribution - to facilitate your memory of and transfer of learning to of key course concepts, please select an item to include in your weekly journal (re: creativity, from newspapers, magazines, (e.g., cartoons, news articles, brief essay)

3. TWO REFLECTIVE ESSAYS

Reflections on your progress: twice during the semester (due Week 8 and Week 14) review journal entries to date. Write a 1-2 page essay summarizing commenting on your change and progress. Identify factors that contributed, patterns of development, emergent goals, interests.

4. BRIEF EXERCISES

A short exercise or two may be assigned each week, except for weeks when other assignments are due. Exercises will be distributed weekly. (see "Weekly Exercises and Assignments Due")

5. AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF ONE LIFE

Identify a person about whom you want to know more. Read an autobiography, biography, letters, and/or journal of that person. Report on your learning in two ways:

- a. AN IN-ROLE BIOGRAPHY PRESENTATION, with accompanying fact sheet (details to be discussed in class).
- b. AN ESSAY (5-6 pages) addressing specific questions about your person

6. A FINAL PROJECT - a self-selected activity of one of the following:
(see "Final Paper Assignments" & Possible Topics for Research Papers)
This may be:

- a. a curriculum unit (5-10 lessons);
- b. a materials evaluation paper
- c. a research paper (approx. 10 pages);
- d. an expressive project
- e. self-designed project (see Nina for approval)

Required Texts:

1. Greenwald, Nina (ed.) Readings in Creative Thinking (special set for class 2002)
2. Shekerjian, Denise. Uncommon Genius, Viking Penguin, 1990.
3. Cameron, J. The Artist's Way (optional)

