

## CrCrTh 602 Creative Thinking, Spring 2019 Students' Synthetic Statements, from the Final Course Evaluation

*The synthetic statement is the fourth question on formal course evaluations for the Critical and Creative Thinking Graduate Program. See questions 1-3 listed on <http://bit.ly/CCTEval>*

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Question 4: "Building on your comments from Questions 1-3 in the formal evaluation, compose a synthetic statement (1 or 2 paragraphs) evaluating this course. (Imagine readers who might not be willing to wade through all the answers to Qs 1-3, but are willing to read more than simply the numerical averages of standard course evaluations.) Please make comments that help the instructor develop the course in the future and that enable some third party appreciate the course's strengths and weaknesses. Among other things you might comment on the overall content and progression of classes, the session activities, and the use of mentors to support the learning in the course."

Below are the Synthetic Statements from the respondents who gave permission for these comments to be shared on the web.

- In general I thought that the course reading material was excellent, even though I did not agree with many of the assessments in the material. Nonetheless, the material is relevant and current. The social heroes videos were more than excellent. Many or all of the artist videos were very slow, often way too long, and sometimes not pertinent. In addition, I think that a smaller amount of material and a longer time to digest the material could be a better direction.
- The course is exhaustive in its coverage of creativity theory. I would advise others to take fewer courses at the same time, because the work load is very demanding – and fascinating. My major personal obstacle to learning more from this course was the amount of time it requires, making learning more stressful, and therefore less enjoyable, and it impacted on my attention to other courses. The course is meticulously designed to follow a path to create lasting understanding - and also action in the future. I enjoyed the discussion boards and the sense of community created by the people in the course. It was supportive and collaborative. The notebook work for me was very special because I loved using glue stick and paper bags and colored markers. It was fun and invigorating to step away from virtual reality and computers, and doodle and cut and paste in actual reality for a change. My inner kid really enjoyed it. For students like myself with a full course load, removing excessive repetitions across the readings and media would be very helpful. I recommend this course because the content is so interesting and unusual, and creativity is a vital skill for the future, and it was really fun and satisfying as well as totally exhausting!
- This course was informative, inspiring and encouraging. It allows you to feely discuss ideas, approaches, methodologies and let you do your own synthesis. At the end of the course you tell yourself with a surprised voice "I'm creative!" Because this course teaches you hove to be and how to train others to become one.
- I really enjoy the course activities. I think that they were able to let us practice the critical elements of the course. The discussion tread is also the best place to share and exchange ideas and thoughts. However, I am interested in more zoom meetings that students can have more face to face discussion section. I also think that the buddy system is a very good way to help us to learn. Maybe establishing the buddy system early on, so students can work with each other and get familiar with each other's working and thinking style.

- UMB's CCT Course in Creative Thinking is a comprehensive look into the research, processes, and application tools of the Creative process. Group projects, individual assignments, and interactive discussions build on the concepts presented offering a fresh exchange of ideas and new perspectives to emerge and be considered. The content covered is extensive, and students should expect to devote more time to this key course than similar graduate level courses. The value will be evident despite the increased workload.
- The nature of the creative course allows the class itself to become a community of creators. The content of the course and the nature of the class discussion builds such trust amongst the group; it is a very unique experience. This course is a lot a lot of work; this class is likely a student's first exposure to the discipline of creativity studies so they should expect to be overwhelmed. It's also a highly participatory class- not just with your classmates but in your personal life. Homework isn't just carving out time to read- it requires time to reflect, to do, make or create something, try new things and be intentional about making changes.