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## SYLLABUS

### Humi 001 – Creative Minds (T/Th 1:30-3:20pm)

#### Course Description

As we get older, life grows in complexity, and so too grows our list of responsibilities and problems. Unfortunately for many of us, our ability to access creative solutions to the tribulations of life simultaneously weakens as our creative faculties atrophy over time. Complacency, creative blocks, fear, doubt, self-criticism, and various restrictive habitual thinking patterns slowly replace our once playful, imaginative spirit. The result is that many of us become less conscious of the depth of meaning and creative choices accessible to us.

Whether we are in need of an innovative business idea, ways to overcome artistic blocks, a new approach to personal or global issues, or are having to deal with the need for a creative career change, it is critical to think creatively -- beyond our ordinary thinking habits. Through this highly interactive course, students will be challenged to think beyond social conditioning in order to access multiple perspectives and become more conscious of creative possibilities in their lives.

#### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will have accomplished the following:

1. Students will have been exposed to a broad, cross-disciplined approach to creativity by exploring this topic through the lens of neuroscience, psychology, business, art, spirituality, and by examining real world examples of creative individuals.
2. Compared the difference between critical and creative thinking, and examined how the two complementary cognitive faculties can be implemented for optimal living.
3. Through lecture, discussion, improvisational activities, games, and self-reflection, students will have further exercised their innate creative thinking skills and gained knowledge of psychological obstacles inherent within the creative process.
4. Students will have learned how the latest research into creativity advocates the need for a greater sense of play, a sense of humor, and provides greater reason to appreciate mythology, poetry, and religious practices.

By the end of the course students, will have developed a greater comprehension of the significance of creativity in maintaining a healthy society and in accessing a more meaningful life.

#### Instructor Information

**Javy Galindo**

**Winter, 2015**

**E-mail:** [javy.w.galindo@gmail.com](mailto:javy.w.galindo@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (408) 357-0504

**Office Hours:** Tues 3:30-4:00pm in L13. W 3:20-3:50pm in MLC110. Or by appointment.

**Course Website:** <http://www.javygalindo.com/creativity>

## Course Expectations and Requirements

### Attendance

- Students may miss a total of *two* class meetings without penalty during the term. There will be a half letter grade deduction assessed at the end of the term if the student misses three meetings, and a fourth absence will result in a full letter grade deduction. A fifth absence may result in dismissal from the course. (Students are highly encouraged to speak to the instructor after his or her fifth absence.)
- A student who is absent on his/her scheduled presentation day will not be able to receive credit for their presentation. It is highly encouraged, that if this situation arises, that the student makes arrangements to trade presentation slots with someone else.
- It is a student's responsibility to obtain any information or assignments they may have missed while absent.
- Attendance may be taken at the beginning of class on a daily basis. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her name has been recorded accurately on daily attendance sheets.
- Students are expected to come to class *on time* and stay for the duration of the class meeting. Any combination of three late arrivals or early departures will be considered equivalent to one absence on the attendance record.
- Students who arrive late or leave early must do so respectfully, causing minimal distraction to the rest of the class.

### Classroom Policies

- All homework will be due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances for partial credit. No assignments will be accepted that is more than one week late, regardless of circumstances.
- Students are expected to be in class on time and may miss assignments and graded activities if they arrive late.
- Place all phones and pagers to vibrate. Using electronic devices such as laptops, mobile phones, and pagers is not permitted during class time without instructor approval. Students who use electronic devices without prior permission from the instructor may be asked to leave.
- Be respectful to others in the class and behave in a professional manner. Students who the instructor deems as being disrespectful to the class may be immediately dropped from the course.

### Grading

- There are no make-up exams or make-up quizzes. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances for partial credit. All quizzes require a Scantron: either #2052 (Brown) or #882-E (Green).
- Weekly journal entry homework assignments will be graded on a pass/fail/zero system: 100% for passing assignments, 50% for failing assignments, and zero points if the assignment is not turned in on time. These journal entries are to be submitted online via a Google drive form.
- Class discussions will frequently feature small-group work. It is expected that students will participate actively in these groups in a respectful manner. Students not fully engaged in small-group work may be asked to leave.

- Academic honesty is imperative in all written work. Plagiarism, the use of unauthorized electronic devices during quizzes, and other violations will automatically result failing grade in the course, and will be reported to the Dean of Academics. Students who are unsure about standards for academic honesty should consult with me.

- **Final Presentations & Paper** **20%**
- **Midterm Presentation** **15%**
- **Bi-Weekly Quizzes** **15%**
- **Final Exam** **10%**
- **Film Analysis** **10%**
- **Creativity Live Worksheet** **10%**
- **Weekly Journal Entries** **10%**
- **Participation** **10%**

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A+	96.5-100
A	92.5-96.4
A-	89.5-92.4
B+	86.5-89.4
B	82.5-86.4
B-	79.5-82.4
C+	76.5-79.4
C	69.5-76.4
D+	66.5-69.4
D	62.5-66.4
D-	59.5-62.4
F	0-59.4

### Required Textbooks

Galindo, J. The Power of Thinking Differently. Hyena Press, 2010. (eBook is okay).

If the bookstore is out of copies, I recommend searching online vendors such as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.half.com](http://www.half.com) for reasonably priced used copies.

*\*The following course schedule is an approximate schedule and subject to change.*

<b>*Course Schedule</b>	
<b>Week 1</b>	Topics: Introduction to the Course, Introduction to Creativity and the Creative Process, Roots of Creative Blocks, The Creative Journey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1/6 – None</li> <li>• 1/8 – Check website. Review syllabus. Read Ch. 1-2 in <u>The Power of Thinking Differently</u> (POTD). Complete additional readings as assigned.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2</b>	Topics: Reflecting on the Uncommon Creative Hero -- Film Screening. Identifying aspects of the creative journey: <i>leaving the ordinary world</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1/13 – Complete <b>Journal #1</b>. Prepare for <b>Quiz #1</b> (bring Scantron &amp; #2 pencil). Complete readings as assigned.</li> <li>• 1/15 – Begin reading Ch. 3-5.</li> </ul>

<b>Week 3</b>	<p>Topics: Beyond The Bondage of The Ordinary World -- Understanding the psychology of convention, common sense, and complacency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1/20 – Complete <b>Journal #2</b>, reading of Ch. 3-5 in POTD, and other readings as assigned.</li> <li>• 1/22 – Complete readings as assigned.</li> <li>• 1/25 - Group Presentation Proposals due (submitted online).</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b>	<p>Topics: Beyond Fear – The roots of the inner critic and methods to move beyond it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1/27 – Complete <b>Journal #3</b>. Prepare for <b>Quiz #2</b>. Begin reading Ch. 6-10 in POTD.</li> <li>• 1/29 – Complete reading of Ch. 6-10 in POTD. Second half of the class will be a “Group Work Day.”</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b>	<p>Topics: Group Presentations -- “Creative Role Models”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2/3 – ALL presentation papers are due. Presentations will begin.</li> <li>• 2/5 - Continue with presentations.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b>	<p>Topics: Letting Go of the Ordinary World, Finds News Ideas (Part I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2/10 – Complete <b>Journal #4</b>. Begin reading Ch. 11-13 in POTD.</li> <li>• 2/12 - “Creativity Live” proposals are due. Complete reading of Ch. 11-13 in POTD.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b>	<p>Topics: “Creativity Live” Discussion, Finding New Ideas (Part II), Attracting Flashes of Insight, The Art of Turning Ideas into Reality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2/17 – <b>Quiz #3</b>.</li> <li>• 2/19 - Complete reading of Ch. 13-16 in POTD, other readings and journal entry as assigned.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b>	<p>Topics: Identifying the Elements of the Creative Process in Personal Success – Film Screening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2/24 – “Creativity Live” Paper due. Proposals for “Personal Creative Journey” Project is due.</li> <li>• 2/26 – Begin working on “Film Analysis” assignment and “Personal Creative Journey” Worksheet.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b>	<p>Topics: Creative Pitfalls and Problems. The Significance of Creativity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3/3 - Film Analysis due. Complete reading of Ch. 17-20. Complete idea brainstorming with assigned partner.</li> <li>• 3/5 – Group Work Day.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10</b>	<p>Topics: Presentations - “My Personal Creative Journey”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3/10 - All Presentation Worksheets are due. Begin presentations.</li> <li>• 3/12 – Continue with presentations.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11</b>	<p>Topics: Presentations - “My Personal Creative Journey” (tentative schedule). The Significance of Creativity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3/17 – Presentations.</li> <li>• 3/19 – Presentations.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12</b>	<p>Topics: Final Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3/26 – <b>Final Exam 1:45pm-3:45pm.</b></li> </ul>