
2. Select research and media articles that will be provided throughout the semester.

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Course Overview & Learning Objectives

Welcome to the Psychology of Creativity and Innovation! Creativity is generally viewed as the development of novel and useful ideas in a human activity. Innovation is generally viewed as the successful implementation of those ideas. Put them together and you get a good portion of an idea’s life cycle.

Creativity and innovation take place in many domains whether it is starting a new venture in the case of an entrepreneur, making scientific breakthroughs in the case of a research scientist, or generating new masterpieces and techniques in the case of the arts.

At the end of this course, you will have an understanding of the distinction between creativity and innovation, including the ways of assessing each, along with a familiarity of the scientific literature on what leads to creativity and innovation (e.g., emotions, cognition, individual differences, and social contexts).

Lastly, you will have an appreciation for creativity and innovation in various domains such as business, science, and the arts—all through the lens of creativity and innovation as a social psychological phenomenon.
**Blackboard**

I will post notes, resources, grades, and announcements on Blackboard. You should frequently check Blackboard because you will be responsible for the material posted. Additionally, all assignments will be turned in through Blackboard. To use Blackboard you will need to go to [https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu](https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu) and log in using your Mason username and password.

This course will be held entirely online. Information will be presented in PowerPoint lectures with accompanying narration. You are responsible for understanding all of the information presented in the PowerPoint lectures as well as the information in the textbook and any articles that are provided as assigned readings.

**Weekly Work**

Each week you will have the following work:

- Read the assigned chapter(s) from the textbook
- Read the assigned readings posted on blackboard
- Watch the PowerPoint presentation (if any) that aligns with the chapter for that week
- Create one discussion post related to that chapter for the given week
- Comment on one other person’s discussion post for that week

**Discussion Posts**

AFTER reading the chapter(s) for the week and studying the corresponding PowerPoint material, you must post *and* respond to a post on the Blackboard Discussion board.

**Part I)** Students must post a unique, interesting and relevant video, link, popular press article, scholarly article, or a current event article related to a topic presented within that chapter that the student found interesting. Along with their post, students must:

- provide an APA style citation of where the information was found. Here are two websites to help:
  - [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)
  - [http://libguides.gwumc.edu/APA](http://libguides.gwumc.edu/APA)
- a summary of the post
- an explanation of why the post is interesting/relevant to the given chapter, and/or
- any other comments or ideas that the student has regarding their posting. These posts should be at least one full paragraph (4-6 sentences), not including the citation.

The goal of these posts is to spur discussion among classmates, so they should be as thought-provoking and engaging as possible in order to encourage other students to read and respond. I encourage healthy discussions and debates through these discussion threads.

**Part II)** Students must also read and respond to a discussion post of at least one other classmate. These responses should include:

- overall thoughts/ideas spurred by the post,
- other reasons why the post was interesting,
- other ways that the post was relevant to topics outlined within the course,
• aspects of the post that the student may agree/disagree with, and/or
• any other observations that the student would like to make about the post

These responses should also be at least 4-6 sentences, and please remember to be respectful and polite regarding other students’ opinions when posting these responses.

Students must submit their discussion posts and responses for each chapter by the due dates listed. **Students will be allowed to miss one discussion post week or one response throughout the entire semester.** This is done to account for any unforeseen circumstances that may prevent a student from submitting the discussion post/response in time. Thus, **there will be NO exceptions for late work.**

**Projects**
Throughout the semester there will be 2 projects that you will complete. I will provide more details on these at the beginning of the semester.

**Quizzes and Exams**
There will be a weekly quiz and two exams—a mid-term exam and a final exam. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Both the quizzes and the exams will cover material from both the PowerPoint and the book. It is important that you give attention to material from both. **There will be a quiz on THIS SYLLABUS to begin the semester to ensure that you have read all of the necessary information for the class.**

After reviewing the materials for each chapter, **students must complete an online chapter quiz, located on Blackboard. These quizzes will be primarily based on materials from the PowerPoint slides and audio components, but may also test content directly from the textbook. Students will only have one opportunity to complete this quiz, and once they submit their answers, their grades will be posted automatically to Blackboard. These quizzes will be multiple-choice, and students will be given a limited amount of time to complete these quizzes to ensure integrity in the quiz-taking process. You may access your notes, but due to the time limit, use your time wisely!**

Students will NOT be able to complete a quiz after 11:59pm of the assigned due date under any circumstance. Students who fail to complete a chapter quiz in the appropriate amount of time will automatically receive a grade of 0%. **Students will be allowed to drop their lowest quiz grade.** This is done to account for any unforeseen circumstances that may prevent a student from submitting the quiz on time. As stated previously, **students are encouraged to complete the chapter quizzes well before the due date to ensure that they do not miss a quiz. Again, there will be NO exceptions for late work.**

**Final Exam**
**At the end of the semester, students will complete an online cumulative final exam, located on Blackboard. This exam will be based on the material covered throughout this course. The content and format of this exam will be similar to that of the chapter quizzes (all multiple choice). The questions will not be the same as those encountered on the chapter quizzes! Student should spend ample time studying all of the materials from each of the chapters before embarking on this final exam. Students will only have one opportunity to complete this exam, and once they submit their answers, their grades will be posted automatically to Blackboard. To ensure that students do not cheat, students will be given a limited amount of time to complete this exam.**
Students must complete this final exam by midnight on the due date assigned to receive credit for this exam. Students who fail to complete this exam by the appropriate time will automatically receive a grade of 0%. There will be NO exceptions unless a reason for missing the exam is provided and in accordance with University accepted policies.

**Coursework Schedule**
Below is the weekly schedule with assignments and due dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Jan 20  | **Chapter 1:** Introduction & **Chapter 2:** Conceptions of Creativity | • Quiz on *Syllabus* due 1/24  
• Quiz on Chapters 1 & 2 **due 1/31**  
• Discussion Post **due 1/31**  
• Comment on Post **due 2/3** |
| Jan 27  | **Chapter 3:** Defining Creativity Through Assessment | • Quiz on Chapter 3 **due 1/31**  
• Discussion Post **due 1/31**  
• Comment on Post **due 2/3** |
| Feb 3   | **Chapter 4:** The Creative Personality | • Quiz on Chapter 4 **due 2/7**  
• Discussion Post **due 2/7**  
• Comment on Post **due 2/10** |
| Feb 10  | **Chapter 5:** The Creative Personality | • Quiz on Chapter 5 **due 2/14**  
• Discussion Post **due 2/14**  
• Comment on Post **due 2/17** |
| Feb 17  | **Chapter 6:** The Creative Process, Part 2 | • Quiz on Chapter 6 **due 2/21**  
• Discussion Post **due 2/21**  
• Comment on Post **due 2/24** |
| Feb 24  | **Chapter 10:** Cognitive Neuroscience & Creativity | • Quiz on Chapter 10 **due 2/28**  
• Discussion Post **due 2/28**  
• Comment on Post **due 3/2** |
| March 2 | **Chapter 11:** The Sociology of Creativity | • Quiz on Chapter 11 **due 3/6**  
• Discussion Post **due 3/6**  
• Comment on Post **due 3/9**  
• **Project #1 Due due 3/9** |
<p>| March 9 | Spring Break! | Spring Break! |
| March 16 | No Readings | Mid-Term <strong>due 3/23</strong> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| March 23   | Chapters 12: Group Creativity & Chapter 13: Organizational Creativity | • Quiz on Chapters 12 & 13 due 3/27  
• Discussion Post due 3/27  
• Comment on Post due 3/30 |
| March 30   | Chapter 15: History & Creativity                                   | • Quiz on Chapter 15 due 4/3  
• Discussion Post due 4/3  
• Comment on Post due 4/6 |
| April 6    | Chapter 16: Visual Arts                                            | • Quiz on Chapter 16 due 4/10  
• Discussion Post due 4/10  
• Comment on Post due 4/13 |
| April 13   | Chapter 17: Writing                                               | • Quiz on Chapter 17 due 4/17  
• Discussion Post due 4/17  
• Comment on Post due 4/20 |
| April 20   | Chapter 21: Education and Creativity                               | • Quiz on Chapter 21 due 4/24  
• Discussion Post due 4/24  
• Comment on Post due 4/27  
• **Project #2 due 4/27** |
| April 27   | Chapter 22: How to be more creative                                 | • Quiz on Chapter 22 due 5/1  
• Discussion Post due 5/1  
• Comment on Post due 5/4 |
| May 4      | No readings                                                      | Final Exam |

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**Grade Breakdown**

**Quizzes** *(14 total, 13 after dropping lowest grade)*  
24%

**Discussion Board Participation** *(13, with one miss allowed)*  
26%

**Project #1**  
5%

**Project #2**  
5%

**Mid-term exam**  
20%

**Final Exam**  
20%

**Total**  
100%
Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<td>87-89%</td>
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<td>60-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Honor Code**
Coursework is expected to be the student’s own original work. Students may use books, notes, and other sources to prepare assignments. Under no circumstances are students to collectively write papers with another student, turn in work previously submitted, reference notes or class materials during tests, or use material from other sources (textbook, websites, journal articles etc.) without proper citation (APA style). This will be considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at academicintegrity.gmu.edu. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. I reserve the right to enter a failing grade for any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

**Disability Accommodations**
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact me and the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (Sub 1, Rm. 4205) at (703) 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.