

Course Syllabus

Creative Thinking

INTD 1820.03

Mondays, noon to 2 pm, Hawley Room 204

Course Description

Course Title: Creative Thinking (INTD 1820.003)

Credits: 1

Prerequisites: None

Instructor: Marny Lawton, M.A., M.Ed.

Class Location: Hawley Auditorium, Room 204

Meeting Time: Mondays, noon to 2 pm (first class January 26; last class March 9)

E-mail: marny.lawton@uconn.edu (please use HuskyCT course email for course related questions)

Office: CUE Room 317D (Center for Undergraduate Education building, opposite main library entrance)

Telephone: (860) 486-2301

Textbook: There is no textbook required for the course. Drawing supplies will be distributed in the first class at no charge.

This course was developed by the Instructional Design and Development unit in the Institute for Teaching and Learning for the First Year Programs at the University of Connecticut.

This course may contain copyrighted information.

Be sure to review your first assignment below under Module 1!



Main Floor
Rowe Center for Undergraduate Education

Course Description

This course looks at the FYE topics from a different perspective. It asks the students to leave their preconceptions at the door. The course will be designed to approach such topics as diversity, values, beliefs, critical thinking, problem-solving, self-management (time, money, and stress) by first learning to see more creatively. Using the tools of a visual artist you will learn to open your minds to different ways of seeing and then applying the same principle to the personal, social, and academic issues facing the first-year students. Learning to see creatively will involve using techniques such as simple and quick contour and gesture drawing to open the mind to new ways of not only seeing but those of thinking as well... and ultimately *thinking outside the box*. When a person is not so reliant on what they think they know or see, the potential exists of thinking about what might be.

I have designed this class to be fun and informative and plan to ask for your input, suggestions, and interaction throughout the semester.

Please come prepared to discuss, question, and inform!

Course Goals and Objectives

My goal for this semester is to fulfill yours by demonstrating some techniques that may help you enter the *Creative Worker* era! We will discuss ways to think creatively in relationship to academics and other topics ranging from values and beliefs, time management and study skills, and identifying your own personal strengths and learning styles. To do this we will look at real life examples, and explore different types of exercises involving visual thinking and self assessments.

Course Goals

- ▶ To develop an ability to think creatively about problems or issues that may seem intractable or unsolvable.
- ▶ To identify and utilize appropriate skills that facilitate flexibility in a rapidly changing world.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- ▶ Demonstrate your own unique form of visual and creative thinking learned through the use of basic drawing skills.
- ▶ Interact and compare ideas with classmates in a creative environment.
- ▶ Define visual and creative thinking.
- ▶ Identify your personal strengths and learning styles.
- ▶ Analyze your values and beliefs towards diversity and learn how this impacts problem solving.
- ▶ Integrate time, money, and stress management skills in your own life.
- ▶ Explore how to approach critical thinking and problem-solving in new and creative ways.

Course Grading

This is an FYE course so grading should not be your main focus. To receive your one credit, though, you will have to **participate** and **produce** in class-based exercises, online, and through a final project:

- ▶ Participation: will occur in class as well as online. Each week of the course will include an online component in HuskyCT. It is your responsibility to visit the online course weekly, participate in each weekly threaded discussion, and read the next module's material to be prepared for each in-class meeting and workshop. The online component of the course will be open and available from the start of the semester. You may work ahead on your own if you wish, but you must attend each in-class meeting to participate in the workshops. Each weekly discussion topic entry must be submitted weekly, but no later than the day before the next class meets (in other words, all discussions are due by Sunday nights at midnight before the next Monday's class). The workshops will consist of required work that will become part of your course portfolio.

- ▶ Produce:

Portfolio: you will be keeping a *portfolio* of your work. This will include drawing exercises and your problem-based material completed in class and on your own each week. Your problem-based material will result in a final project that we will discuss and *begin* in the first week of class. Since this is only a 7-week class time is critical. It is your responsibility to keep pace with each class in order to complete your final project. The final project will be presented by each student in the last two class meetings on March 2 and 9.

Final Project: You will develop a creative solution to a perceived problem. Students will present their final project during the last two class meetings on March 2 and 9. Complete information will be available in the first class and online Module 1 of this course.

Course Outline

- ▶ Module 1 - Self Relationship and Personal Strengths Workshop (with Kevin Sullivan)

- **Personality Style Inventory Assessment:** you are required to complete this assessment *before coming to the first class* by printing a copy of the file provided at the link below. Please complete this assessment by hand and bring it with you to our first class prepared to discuss your results.

[PERSONAL STYLE INVENTORY ASSESSMENT \(3\) \(2\).pdf](#)

- Lab: Personal Strengths and Relaxation Exercises
- Lab: Drawing Exercises (pure contour drawing)

- Project Discussion
- ▶ Module 2 - Values, Beliefs, and Diversity Workshop (with Catherine Ross)
 - Lab: Diversity Workshop
 - Lab: Drawing Exercises (split brain / brain shift)
- ▶ Module 3 - Learning Styles and Self Management Skills Workshop
 - Lab: Drawing Exercises (thought, perception, and visualization)
- ▶ Module 4 - Critical Thinking and Problem Solving For College, Life, and Work
 - Lab: Drawing Exercises (getting some *perspective* on the subject)
- ▶ Module 5 - SURPRISE CLASS!
- ▶ Module 6 - Project Presentations
- ▶ Module 7 - Project Presentations and Course Summary

Required Software

To download the web browser plug-ins required for this course, visit the [Plug-ins List](#). You will need the following plug-ins for this course:

- ▶ Flash player
- ▶ Shockwave
- ▶ Quicktime Player
- ▶ Adobe Acrobat Reader

Make sure you run through the next *Course and HuskyCT Introduction* course module if you are new to HuskyCT.

If you encounter technical problems, please contact the UConn [Learning Resource Center](#) (LRC), 860-486-1187.