

Creativity and Research

SYLLABUS

CRE 305
Spring 2014
TR 9:30-10:45am
Noel Studio, Discovery Classroom
3 Credits
Office Hours: W, 11am – 12:30pm

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Goals & Objectives

This course extends the process of cultivating intentional and systematic creative competencies in students, honing in on information fluency development in scholarship and research. More specifically, this course provides intentional, systematic, and coherent methods for strengthening students' information literacy, research, and scholarship skills in ways that complement and enhance their creative-thinking skills and practices, in order to help students become efficient, effective, and ethical users and producers of information.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students in the Creativity and Research will hone their information literacy skills within the context of applied creativity, strengthening the ability to identify a problem/need; locate and access information efficiently and effectively; manage the abundance of information available; critically evaluate available information; synthesize and incorporate information into one's knowledge base; and creatively and ethically use, modify, apply, communicate, and/or express information.

Students pursuing the minor in Applied Creative Thinking must earn a C or above in this course.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate information rhetorically and contextually
- Apply a variety of search strategies/tools according to the information need and environment
- Illustrate the information cycle in various contexts and environments
- Communicate and manage information creatively and effectively
- Demonstrate an understanding of the legal, ethical, and security implications of using, modifying, creating, and sharing information, especially in creative projects
- Apply varied and appropriate creativity techniques to defining and refining information needs or problems

Methods for Learning and Teaching

This class will involve a blend of lecture, large-and small-group discussion, in-class collaborative creation, and design workshops. Students are expected to bring texts to class each session. Students will be

expected to read in advance of class sessions and be prepared to discuss relevant ideas, themes, and writing practices. The texts, *The Economics of Attention* and selected articles, include information that students will need for class sessions. To be successful in this class, and ultimately the minor in Applied Creativity, students will need to participate on a regular basis. Each class meeting will include information that is valuable to students' success as creative thinkers. Finally, students will participate fully in all class assignments, which means coming prepared for class with homework and assignments.

Required Texts

Lanham, Richard. *The Economics of Attention*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2006.

Select articles provided online.

Required Materials and Resources

- Dropbox Access
- Prezi Access

Attendance Policy

Students may miss no more than 10% of the scheduled class meetings, which means that if you miss more than five class meetings, you can fail the course. Students are responsible for notifying me of any planned absences and for completing any missed work as a result of any absence(s). Please consult the instructor in advance with any questions regarding attendance.

Grades

| Exams/Participation/Conferences | Points | Creative Projects | Points |
|---|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Archive of Scholarly Research on Creativity | 50 | P1 | 50 |
| Participation (attendance) | 50 | P2 | 100 |
| Research Log | 30 | P3 | 150 |
| Creativity Research Manuscript | 170 | P4 | 200 |
| | | P5 | 200 |
| Total | 300 | | 700 |
| Semester Total | | | 1000 |

A= 90-100% (900-1000pts)

B= 80-89% (800-899pts)

C= 70-79% (700-799 pts)

F= <70% (0-699pts)

EKU will graduate informed, critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively.

I expect the course to become more challenging and expectations for the quality of student work to increase as the semester progresses. Moreover, I expect students to put forth effort in each creative product and assignment, giving each the care and time it needs. The course design will help assist you in this area through integrative collaboration, in-class discussions of your products and creative concepts, in-class workshops, and one-on-one conferences with me. I will collect copies of all creative products, including outlines, rough drafts, and proof of invention process, from all students. You should keep detailed notes for each stage of your invention process that show intentional strategies for creative thinking.

Late and Missed Work

Late work will be graded down at my discretion. In any case, it's better to hand in late than not at all. You must complete all major projects to pass the course. Let me know if work is going poorly, if you just can't get started or if you don't understand how to do it. I can extend the deadline in some cases. If you miss a major project without an excused absence, you will receive an F for that work.

Other Course Policies

Lateness: It is important that students arrive on time to every class. All class sessions are important. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class period. Creative products and exercises will be assigned in each class. Students who arrive late to class will be marked absent or partially absent at my discretion. All class meetings are important and require your focus to be successful.

Academic integrity

Students are advised that ECU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at www.academicintegrity.ecu.edu. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Changes to the Syllabus

The course schedule is subject to change. Students will have advanced notice in class or via email of any changes in class location or schedule.

Midterm Progress Report

Before Sunday, March 9, 2014, all students will be informed in writing about their progress in the course via ECU Direct.

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Notes

- To pass this course, you must participate fully in all class sessions. You must have at least a C in the class to be eligible to continue with the minor in Applied Creativity.
- You must complete all assignments to pass the course.

Progress in the Course

Students should consult your instructor before dropping the course. The last withdrawal day is Sunday, February 9, 2014.

Students with Disabilities

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID and present them to the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you believe you need accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the Office in the Student Success Building Room 361 by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933 V/TDD. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in alternative forms.

Important Dates

Last day to withdraw from the course without a fee: February 9, 2014

Last day to withdraw from the course with a fee: Friday, March 21, 2014

Holidays: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: Monday, January 20, 2014; Spring Break, Monday, March 10 – Friday, March 14, 2014

The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity

Students pursuing the minor in Applied Creativity will spend a significant amount of class time and creative invention time in the Noel Studio for Academic Creativity. Some students might decide to work as consultants in the Noel Studio. The Noel Studio is a free resource for the ECU community, including graduate and undergraduate students.

The Noel Studio's primary service is the individual or group consultation: a trained consultant will spend 60 minutes with you (an hour is preferable if your project is longer than five pages or the equivalent for presentations and multimedia or if you are working with a group) reviewing your project and discussing your ideas. You can bring your work to the Noel Studio at any point in the communication-development process, even if you don't have anything substantial yet. Your visit will be most helpful if you take the time to:

Prepare questions/ideas/strategies in advance: Identify specific questions/ideas/strategies that will guide your research and thinking about the project while you're in the Noel Studio.

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Prepare to participate in the consultation: The Noel Studio is designed as a collaborative and creative space for learning. Thus, you will actively discuss your project with the consultant and take part in invention techniques and activities.

Allot time to revise and reflect after you leave the Noel Studio: Identify the possibilities raised during the consultation that are helpful to you and leave enough time to use the Noel Studio space to reflect on and refine your project and ideas.

Revise and rethink: The Noel Studio is intended to support multiple learning styles. Use invention and practice spaces at the Noel Studio to rethink critical aspects of your project.

The Noel Studio will help with projects in any subject, including traditional essays, research papers, proposals; out-of-class projects such as scholarship applications, graduate school applications, and business letters; multimedia such as digital narratives, videos, podcasts, and online portfolios; and oral presentations, conference talks, and panel presentations. After each consultation, you will receive verification of your visit and a summary of what was discussed.

It is best to make an appointment; however, the Noel Studio welcomes walk-ins.

You may use Noel Studio resources, such as computers, video equipment, monitors, and software without an appointment. Please remember that the Noel Studio does not write, proofread, or grade projects.

For more information or to make an appointment, visit the Noel Studio website at <http://www.studio.eku.edu/> or call 859-622-7330.

GROUPS: If you are working on a group project, please have all members come to the Noel Studio when you visit for your consultation. Please have all group members sign in at the kiosk.

Course Organization and Scope

Textbooks:

Economics of Attention (EA)

Archive of Scholarly Research on Creativity

Students will develop an archive of scholarly research on creativity using modern library research methods and technologies. Students can design archives that are creative and technologically sophisticated, but they must follow rigorous and accurate naming and accessibility conventions.

Research Log

Students will compile a reflection and response to a research-related article each week. The log will assist students as they prepare for the major research project. Through this research log, students should grapple with complex literature in the field of creativity and look for connections to research in their disciplines.

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Creativity Research Manuscript

The culminating project for the course is a creativity research manuscript. Students will investigate an area of creativity, design, and carry out a project that sheds light on creative challenges, learning environments, or pedagogies. Students can choose to do their research on campus, incorporating the Noel Studio and other environments into their work. The manuscript should be of publishable quality, meaning that it must be at least 10 pages, of academic rigor, and free of grammatical issues.

Projects 1-5

Students will be expected to take on creative projects on a regular basis. These projects will serve as the basis for the course, asking students to first collect and discuss data in different forms: video, audio, web, interview, and low-tech. Students will investigate how these artifacts contribute to a creative process while exploring existing samples that further their experiences.

Schedule

| Week | Theme | Reading/Viewing | Project |
|------|--|--|---|
| 1 | Course introduction and discussion | Course syllabus | Read the syllabus |
| 2 | Tour of the Noel Studio and Library/ Discussion of Research | Bring at least one research article to class (focused on creativity or not) for discussion | Discuss elements of research/scholarship/info lit |
| 3 | Stuff and Fluff Economies | EA ch 1 | P1 |
| 4 | Economists of Attention | EA ch 2 | Review of sites and sounds of research |
| 5 | What's Next | EA ch 3 | P2 |
| 6 | An Alphabet that Thinks | EA ch 4; Interview with Greg Ulmer | Review of select multimodal research projects |
| 7 | Style/Substance | EA ch 5 | P3 |
| 8 | Creativity and the Ethics of Information | EA ch 6 | Creativity Research Manuscript Proposal due |
| 9 | Creativity in Digital Literacy | Virtual tour of Rosetti Archives and discussion | P4 |

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|----|---|--|---|
| | | with Jerome McGann | |
| 10 | Artifacts, Creativity, and Information Literacy | Class discussion with Danielle Nicole DeVoss | Creativity Research Project update |
| 11 | Creativity as Literacy | Robinson "The Academic Illusion" | P5 |
| 12 | Creative Research Collaborations: Information Literacy in Medicine, Engineering, Sciences | A review of creative hubs for research (Silicon Valley, Research Triangle) | Identify creative examples of collaborative research projects to discuss in class |
| 13 | Creative Researchers: What they do, how they select projects, how they think | Bring interview questions to class; assist with Scholarship Week | Archive on Scholarly Research on Creativity; Present research projects at UP Showcase |
| 14 | Presentation of creative archives/discussion of approaches | Review of at least two archives | Presentation worksheets |
| 15 | Peer-review research projects | Read at least two other research projects and provide substantive feedback | Research project worksheets |
| 16 | Present Research Projects | Presentations in class | Final Research Log; Creativity Research Manuscript |