

DC 470 or MCS 520 Topics: Creativity In Practice  
Spring Quarter 2016  
Wednesdays, 1:30 – 4:45  
CDM 924

**Instructor:** Shayna Connelly  
**Office:** CDM 504  
**Office Hours:** W 11 -12:30, 4:45 – 5:15 & R  
1 – 2 (Cinespace)

**Email:** [sconnelly@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:sconnelly@cdm.depaul.edu)  
**Phone:** 312-362-8907

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course teaches the tools for creative self-discovery and process rather than end product. As adults we unlearn many of the gifts of childhood that spark our creativity such as divergent thinking, the correlation between mind and body and the ability to play, all of which are essential tools for creative fields. Discovering what sets you apart from other artists is an ongoing process involving observation, curiosity, experimentation and play. Through a series of practical exercises and by exploring the creative practice of painters, sculptors, filmmakers, musicians, poets and writers you will establish a creative practice that will keep you inspired, engaged and creative.

**PREREQUISITES:** NONE

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To recognize the role community, routine, experimentation and daily practice play in creativity;
- To explore the relationship between process and end product;
- To analyze the myths associated with creativity in order to demystify the process;
- To discuss and reflect on the relationship between process and end product.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

*Catching The Big Fish* David Lynch  
*The Creative Habit* Twyla Tharp  
*Steal Like An Artist* Austin Kleon

*Show Your Work* Austin Kleon  
Additional handouts provided by instructor.

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

*Letters To A Young Poet* Rainer  
Maria Rilke  
*Just Kids* and *M Train* Patti Smith

*What It Is* Lynda Barry  
*Bird By Bird* Ann Lamott  
*Cartooning* Ivan Brunetti

**ADDITIONAL REQUIRED RESOURCES (BRING TO CLASS WEEKLY):**

Life (stolen from Ivan Brunetti *Cartooning*)

Notebook/ journal & writing utensil

Smart phone camera

Oblique Strategies app (free – iPhone/android)

Bloom app (ca. \$3.99 – iPhone/android)

Mindfulness meditation app (ca. \$3.99 – iPhone/android)

Evernote (free – iPhone/android)

Instagram (free – iPhone/android)

Vine (free - iPhone/android)

Internet access for email, d2l and use of wetransfer.com.

**REQUIRED RESOURCES NEEDED OCCASIONALLY (WILL BE ANNOUNCED WHEN NEEDED)**

Non-photo blue pencil (available at Blick)

Uniball 'Vision' fine tipped pen (available at Blick)

24 count box of crayons

Coloring book (available at dollar store – no adult coloring books)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

Kum Pencil sharpener

Pencil box or bag

Scissors

Small ruler

Elmer's Glue

Construction Paper

Tape

You may want to decorate your journal! Make collages!

**GRADING**

Grades will be given for each assignment. Late work will not be accepted for grading. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. In my experience, students who neglect to turn in even one assignment have difficulty passing the class.

**GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

Attendance/Active participation	20%
Discussion Boards	20%
Daily Practice	40%
Creative Biography	10%
Final Reflection	10%

A = 100 – 93, A- = 92 – 90, B+ = 89 – 88, B = 87 – 83, B- = 82 – 80, C+ = 79 – 78, C = 77 – 73, C- = 72 – 70, D+ = 69 – 68, D = 67 – 63, D- = 62 – 60, F = 59 – 0.

**SYLLABUS**

***NOTE: WE WILL NOT ALWAYS MEET IN A CLASSROOM***

**WEEK 1:**

**SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS ITEMS, FAQ AND ARTS EXCHANGE DISCUSSION BOARDS ON D2L**

**3/30** WHAT IS CREATIVITY?

READING HOMEWORK: SOLNIT INTRODUCTION & *WRITING DOWN THE BONES* HANDOUT

YOU CAN EXPECT TO HAVE DAILY AND WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS. THESE WILL BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS AND A HANDOUT REMINDING YOU WILL BE GIVEN EACH WEEK.

\*\*\*\* Online discussion dates March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*

**WEEK 2:**

**4/6** LOST AND FOUND (EXPLORATION, PROCESS, CURIOSITY)

READING HOMEWORK: THARP 1 – 3  
ASSIGNMENT: ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY  
DUE: WEEK 1 ASSIGNMENTS

\*\*\*\* Online discussion dates April 7<sup>th</sup> – April 13<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*

**WEEK 3:**

**4/13**            MOVEMENT

READING HOMEWORK: THARP 4, 5

DUE: CREATIVE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND WEEK 2 ASSIGNMENTS

\*\*\*\* Online discussion dates April 14<sup>th</sup> – April 20<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*

**WEEK 4:**

**4/20**            STILLNESS/ALTERED STATES

READING HOMEWORK: THARP 6 & CAGE *WHAT SILENCE TAUGHT US*

DUE: WEEK 3 ASSIGNMENTS

\*\*\*\* Online discussion dates April 21<sup>st</sup> – April 27<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*

**WEEK 5:**

**4/27**            SOUND

READING HOMEWORK: THARP, CHAPTER 7

DUE: WEEK 4 ASSIGNMENTS

\*\*\*\* Online discussion dates April 28<sup>th</sup> - May 4<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*

**WEEK 6:**

**5/4**            THE HIGHEST FORM OF FLATTERY... COPYING AS A STARTING POINT

READING HOMEWORK: *STEAL LIKE AN ARTIST*

DUE: WEEK 5 ASSIGNMENTS

\*\*\*\* Online discussion dates May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*\*

**WEEK 7:**

**BRING TO CLASS: NON-PHOTO BLUE PENCIL AND UNIBALL PEN**

**5/11**            TOUCH (DRAWING, TEXTURE)

READING HOMEWORK: THARP, CHAPTERS 8, 9

DUE: WEEK 6 ASSIGNMENTS

\*\*\*\* Online discussion dates May 12<sup>th</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*

### WEEK 8:

**BRING TO CLASS: UNUSUAL BUT DELICIOUS FOOD ITEM TO SHARE (LABEL VEG, VEGAN, GF OR CONTAINS NUTS)**

**5/18** TASTE AND SMELL

READING HOMEWORK: *CATCHING THE BIG FISH*  
DUE: WEEK 7 ASSIGNMENTS & ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

\*\*\*\* Online discussion dates May 19<sup>th</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*\*

### WEEK 9

**5/25** SIGHT

READING HOMEWORK: WIM WENDERS HANDOUT, *WAYS OF SEEING* (BERGER) HANDOUT, *WAYS OF SEEING INSTAGRAM* HANDOUT  
DUE: WEEK 8 ASSIGNMENTS

\*\*\*\* Online discussion dates May 26<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup> \*\*\*\*

### WEEK 10

**DUE TUESDAY, 5/31 AT 11:59 "CREATE AN ASSIGNMENT"**

**6/1** IT TAKES A VILLAGE: SHARING SECRETS

READING HOMEWORK: THARP, CHAPTERS 10, 11  
HOMEWORK: REFLECTION PAPER  
DUE: WEEK 9 ASSIGNMENTS

### WEEK 11/ FINALS WEEK:

**6/8** 11:30 – 1:45 GARFIELD PARK CONSERVATORY FIELD TRIP  
– WHAT IS CREATIVITY (REVISITED)?

READING HOMEWORK: *SHOW YOUR WORK*

DUE: REFLECTION PAPER

\*\*\*\*\* **Attendance is mandatory.** \*\*\*\*\*

**A NOTE ON THIS COURSE:**

Most courses in your college career focus on products. How much you gain from this class is directly related to how much you put in. You may also not immediately see the benefits from the course. Imagine yourself spending 11 weeks sowing seeds for a garden that will some day be lush, wild and unimaginably beautiful. Tending this garden will mean continuing the work after the quarter has ended. What you start now you should continue throughout your life until you are no longer physically or mentally able to do the work.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies apply to this course:

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES** – This course requires you to work independently, take responsibility for yourself and to live by John Cage's rules.

**ETIQUETTE** – Students must practice respectful, professional behavior in person, online and via email communications. Part of respect in the classroom means being fully prepared for class and proofreading your work.

**FILE NAMING CONVENTIONS** – Students must name all files (word, pdf, mov, m4v, zip or folders) in the following way: lastname\_firstname\_assignment. Example: connelly\_shayna\_midterm.mov.

**FAQ DISCUSSION BOARD** – Please post any questions you have about assignments, the course, logistics, etc. on the FAQ discussion board. Students are required to subscribe to this board (see d2l for instructions).

**WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDELINES** – Active participation in class is expected from everyone. Students who are quick to respond or who have difficulty tolerating silence must help students who require more time to gather their thoughts by allowing them to speak. You will be downgraded for monopolizing discussions or always being first to respond to the teacher. Students who are more introverted are still required to speak in class. Please let me know how I can facilitate your participation in class.

**DESIRE TO LEARN** – The course uses D2l to post notes and assignments. Please visit <https://d2l.depaul.edu> and use your campus connect ID to enter the site.

**HANDOUT & ASSIGNMENT COPIES** – Handout and assignment copies are available on d2l.depaul.edu.

**READING ASSIGNMENTS** – “The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read.” – Mark Twain

**DEADLINES** – Late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructor’s discretion. You will not be eligible for an A in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time.

**STALLING TACTICS** – Submitting a blank document, incorrect document or corrupted document on d2l are thinly veiled ways to buy more time for an assignment. This will not be tolerated. If I cannot open your assignment, it is the same as not turning it in and it will receive zero credit.

**ACCEPTED FORMATS** – PDF and Word documents only. No JPEG, PNG or Pages files will be accepted for written documents. JPEG works for photos, of course. For film work .mov or .m4v files will be accepted via wetransfer.com. Test your exports on a Mac computer other than the one you created the project on before sending.

**FILE NAMING CONVENTIONS** – Weekly folders, PDF, .docx, .mov and .m4v files must be named in a specific way: LastName\_FirstName\_assignment. Example: connelly\_shayna\_week1. In addition, the student’s name must appear on the document or alternately as a slate or credit in the film. Failure to comply with the file naming convention will result in a 1-letter grade reduction in the overall assignment grade.

**ATTENDANCE** – Attendance and attention in class are mandatory. Any absence means missing more than 15 minutes of class time per session. Each student is allowed ONE absence (equal to two tardies) before your grade is affected.

**ILLNESS** – Do not attend class if you are ill (heavy cough, fever, vomiting) or think you might be coming down with something worse than a cold. If you show up visibly sick, you may be asked to go home. In order to prevent a consequence with the attendance and deadline policies, contact me by email prior to missing a class due to illness and continue to keep me updated until you return. Students are required to be proactive in keeping up with the coursework. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstance at the instructor’s discretion. Students with long-term illnesses (missing more than 1 week of class) should contact the Dean of Students office to inquire about a medical withdrawal. **Absolutely no consideration will be given without advanced notice, even with a doctor’s note.**

**INCOMPLETES** – No incompletes will be given.

**COMPUTER/SMART PHONE USE** – All in-class work must be handwritten (class notes, writing assignments). No exceptions.

**PLAGIARISM** – Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class and can lead to an Academic Integrity Violation. Students are expected to understand what constitutes original research and how to use proper citation methods. All papers are automatically run through anti-plagiarism software turnitin.com.

**INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY** – I am **available** during my office hours, which are listed at the top of the syllabus and online. You may email me at any time. Please note that I check my email and d2l several times a day, however I do not keep student hours. I am early to bed, early to rise. If you need specific help with your work, give me at least 24 hours notice. I cannot help with last minute questions. If you notice a problem on d2l (incorrect deadline, something locks before it should, etc.) or if you have a general question about an assignment or policy, post in the **FAQ discussion board**. Students who answer questions on the FAQ board earn extra credit.

**CONTENT CHANGES** – This syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of all changes.

**ADDRESSING THE PROFESSOR** – Please call me by my first name in both emails and in person. If my kids' friends call me Shayna (rhymes with Dana), you can, too. The only time you should address me as 'Professor Connelly' is if you are writing an email to multiple professors and are using titles for others.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** – Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted:

The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at +1 (773) 325-1677, Student Center #370.

**ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS** – This course includes instructional content delivered via audio and video. If you have any concerns about your ability to access and/or understand this material in its default format, please notify me within the first week of the course so accommodations can be made.

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted: The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at +1 (773) 325-1677, Student Center #370.



**DEADLINES AND ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS** – Deadlines are non-negotiable and will not be altered. All deadlines are on the syllabus. Please work ahead and budget your time to ensure meeting the deadline. Should you require additional time to complete an assignment, I can provide the assignment in advance of when it would normally be given in class.