



***What? When? Where? Who?***

- This is HON 361-0002 (76292) – Honors Area of Emphasis in Creativity I.
- We meet Fall 2016 on TuTh @ 9:30-10:45 AM in Miller Hall G004.
- Your instructor is Philip Frana, Ph.D. [franapl@jmu.edu](mailto:franapl@jmu.edu), 540.568.6953. He has an open door policy. If you'd prefer an appointment, please call Selena Cowger at 540.568.7728.

***What are the required readings and when do I need to read them?***

September: Tom Kelley and David Kelley, *Creative Confidence: Unleashing the Creative Potential Within Us All* (Harper Collins, 2015) 978-0008139384

October: Ed Catmull, *Creativity, Inc.: Overcoming the Unseen Forces That Stand in the Way of True Inspiration* (Random House, 2014) 978-0812993011

November/December: Keith Sawyer, *Explaining Creativity: The Science of Human Innovation*, Second Edition (Oxford University Press, 2012) 978-0199737574

*Other short readings will be made available from time to time in the online classroom file cabinet on JMU Canvas.*

***What is this introductory course about?***

This course explores basic concepts of creativity across the disciplines and within various cultures. Course content includes the study and analysis of creative expression; the application of theories and conceptual frameworks to notions of fruitful serendipity, intellectual insight, and imagination; and the various modes of creative cognition in individuals, groups, and experimental “thinking” machines. We will draw especial attention to problems of creation in literary and artistic endeavors, the role of personality, creativity in scientific discovery, the physiology and neurology of creative ability, innovative teaching techniques, or the philosophy and psychology of creativity and human fulfillment.

*This course is under the Area of Emphasis. Two consecutive Area of Emphasis courses (one in Fall and one in Spring) are required to fulfill the Honors Seminar requirement. If only one Area of Emphasis course is completed, it will count towards the Honors Elective requirement.*

Program AoE objectives:

- Increase the capacity to think critically and creatively
- Develop stronger written, oral, and visual communication skills

Course AoE objectives:

- Develop a precise grasp on the role of interconnection and juxtaposition of disparate elements in creative thinking
- Engage in cross- or multi-disciplinary modes of creative inquiry, exploration, and discovery, while aiming for integration, tolerance of ambiguity, and examination of enduring questions
- Review proposed mechanisms for creative and innovative thought
- Differentiate between various motivations for learning
- Explore the place and meaning of discovery in the human experience

### ***What is the experiential course about?***

The follow-up course is intended to build upon knowledge developed in an introductory Honors Area of Emphasis course. As with all Honors experiential learning endeavors, the course requires an out-of-class component that involves direct student participation. Students will be challenged in a variety of ways to think and act critically and creatively, while demonstrating strong written and oral communication skills and engaging in discussions about how ethics, morals, and values relate to creative expression.

A prerequisite for this course is prior completion of an introductory Area of Emphasis course. All students in the course participate in area and cohort-specific discussions facilitated by area coordinators. Practicum course selections and arrangements are made at the end of the semester.

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Program AoE objectives:

- Increase the capacity to think critically and creatively
- Develop stronger written, oral, and visual communication skills
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Course AoE objectives:

- Explore the role of creative expression in addressing problems that face society
- Consider the multiple and possibly divergent paths leading to creative solutions
- Engage in creative collaboration on a joint project, or reinterpret the creative expressions of others
- Appreciate the roles of experimentation, failure, and revision in the commission of successful creative endeavors

### ***What is the practicum course about?***

The final course in the series requires prior completion of an *experiential* Honors Area of Emphasis course. The Creativity practicum is student designed with the facilitation of a tenured or tenure-eligible faculty member acting as mentor. The student is expected to extend his/her second semester experience by the initiation or continuation of an independent research project in the area of Creativity. Practicums are approved on a case-by-case basis by the Honors Program director.

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Program AoE objectives:

- Increase the capacity to think critically and creatively
- Develop stronger written, oral, and visual communication skills

Course AoE objectives:

- Explore one's own potential to produce an original creative project
- Take a creative risk beyond one's zone of comfort
- Experience what it takes to turn something heretofore unimagined into a possible or real process or product

### ***What are the actual assignments?***

- *Zen observational experiments.* Humor your instructor.
- *Discussion plans and leadership.* You are expected to turn in a brief plan for (a) your discussion topic and (b) your discipline discussion at midnight before the day you are scheduled to present. Details will be shared in a separate handout.
- *Minute papers.* Focused, in-class, writing-to-learn assignments that promote reflection on individual topics.
- *Podcasts.* In pairs, you will prepare two short podcasts (5 minutes or less) related to your topic discussion and your creativity in the major discussion. Details of this assignment will be shared in a separate handout.
- *Accidental masterpiece,* an interdisciplinary collaborative-creative project. Details will be shared in separate handouts, but the gist is a project done in groups of 4-5 that involve (a) a visual medium for expression, (b) two academic disciplines, (c) a pop culture convention, (d) an instantly recognizable public figure, (e) some acknowledgement of the culture of the Shenandoah Valley, and (f) a cheese grater or shredder. An example would be a science fiction short film about Mennonite art history that features Steve Jobs and a moon made of shredded mozzarella. The final project must also show awareness, appreciation, and usage of observations, problems, or solutions drawn from class topics and discussions.
- *Final presentation of your Accidental masterpiece.* We'll share our class projects in the final weeks of the semester.

### ***How will I be graded?***

More than two unexcused absences will automatically result in a lowered grade. Missing a class in which you are an assigned leader will also automatically result in a lowered grade. After four absences you must make an appointment with your instructor to discuss your future enrollment in the class.

#### *Grade distribution:*

- 20% - in-class discussion and moments of Zen
- 15% - discussion guides
- 10% - minute papers
- 15% - podcasts
- 40% - accidental masterpiece and final presentation

#### *Grading scale:*

grade	range	
A	100%	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0%	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0%	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0%	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0%	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0%	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0%	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0%	to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0%	to 67.0%
D	< 67.0%	to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0%	to 61.0%
F	< 61.0%	to 0.0%

### ***What are the course expectations?***

**Attendance:** Attendance is required and will be recorded at each class. In case of emergency, such as illness, please notify your instructor prior to missing the class. After three absences, you will need to conference with the instructor. Students who do not fulfill these obligations may receive a failing grade and be removed from the class. Unless otherwise announced in class or on the JMU website, students should assume that classes will meet. See JMU's inclement weather policy at <http://www.jmu.edu/JMUpolicy/1309.shtml>.

We will discover and increase an awareness of our civic responsibility.

We will nurture our own self-efficacy. "If she can do it, so can I," goes the old saying. What's the best way to build our creative confidence? By observing and emulating the actions of successful people who are similar to us. We can do so much more together than we can do separately. Ours is a community for building systems of guided mastery.

*Your responsibilities as a contributing member of this class and community:* You have a responsibility to come prepared for class, ready to contribute to the discussion and activities. You have a responsibility to be open to the ideas and opportunities offered in this class. You have a responsibility to be respectful of your peers, your instructor, and your guest speakers.

You have a responsibility to do your very best in the pursuit of understanding the philosophies of higher education as it pertains to your growth and development. You have a responsibility to appropriately voice any concerns and questions that pertain to the contents of this class. You have a responsibility to appropriately agree to disagree with others. You have a responsibility to take what you learn here and apply it to your education here at JMU and to the world beyond this campus.

*Student Conduct:* James Madison University affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy. The JMU Honor Code is available from the Honor Council Web site: <http://www.jmu.edu/honor/code.shtml>.

*Registration:* Students are responsible for registering for classes and for verifying their class schedules on MyMadison and Canvas. The deadline for adding/dropping a fall semester class through MyMadison without instructor and academic unit head signatures is September 6, 2016. Between September 6, 2014 and September 15, 2016, instructor and academic unit head signatures are required to add a class for fall semester 2016. No exceptions will be made to these deadlines.

*Disability:* If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you accommodations to be used in the classroom. Once you have presented us with this letter, we will sit down and review the course requirements, your disability characteristics, and your requested accommodations to develop an individualized plan, appropriate for HON 361.

JMU abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodations, please contact us early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate provision of accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on should contact the Office of Disability Services (Wilson Hall, Room 107, <http://www.jmu.edu/ods>, 540-568-6705) if you have not previously done so. Disability Services will provide you with an Access Plan Letter that will verify your need for services and make recommendations for campus to provide services for students with disabilities. The office is located in Wilson Hall, Room 107 and you may call 540-568-6705 for more information.

*Religious Observation Accommodations:* All faculty members are required to give reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students requesting them on grounds of religious observation. The faculty member determines what accommodations are appropriate for his/her course. Students should notify the faculty by no later than the end of the Drop-Add period the first week of the semester of potential scheduled absences and determine with the instructor if mutually acceptable alternative methods exist for completing the missed classroom time, lab or activity.

***What's the class schedule and what am I responsible for?***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic + Discussion Leader 30 mins</b>	<b>Creativity in Your Major/Minor 15-20 mins</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 30th</b>	Course Intro Dr. Phil Frana	
<b>Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup></b>	What is Creativity? Dr. Phil Frana	
<b>Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity and Personality Dr. Phil Frana	
<b>Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Computational Creativity Dr. Phil Frana	
<b>Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Artistic + Musical Creativity John Constable	Jocelyn Abrahamzon (Music)
<b>Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Literary Creativity Heather Frazier	Maria Leckey (English)
<b>Tuesday, September 20</b>	Creativity in Science (Scientific Discovery)	Amy Fox (Chemistry)
<b>Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Neuroscience of Creative Ability Nina Schenk	Michael Amico (Nursing)
<b>Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity in Education + Teaching Tess Jacobson	Heather Frazier (Secondary Education)
<b>Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Testing Creative Ability Paige Moody	Nina Schenk (Undeclared)
<b>Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity and Mental Illness Kristina Kohl	Katie Preziotti (Psychology)
<b>Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Inspiring, Encouraging, and Managing Creative People Emily LaPlante	Tess Jacobson (Hospitality Management)
<b>Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity in Business Michael Amico	John Constable (Advertising)
<b>Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>No class. Dr. Frana is at the National Collegiate Honors Council meeting in Seattle.</i>	

<b>Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity in Groups (Leadership and Collaboration) Jocelyn Abrahamzon	Kristina Kohl (Quantitative Finance)
<b>Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup></b>	The Creative Class + Creative Cities Kathleen & Katie	Haley Walter (Political Science)
<b>Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity and Innovation Kelsey Whitney	Jazmin Castro (International Business)
<b>Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity Across Cultures Jazmin Castro	Ally Fisher (International Affairs)
<b>Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Creativity, Gender, and Sexuality Maria Leckey	
<b>Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Creativity, Human Fulfillment, and Flow (Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi) Ally Fisher	Emily LaPlante (Theatre)
<b>Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Aging + Creativity + Generational Forms of Creativity Haley Walter	
<b>Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity + Technology	Sarah Trotter (Engineering)
<b>Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Drugs + Creativity Tess Jacobson	Catherine Evans (Writing, Rhetoric + Technical Communication)
<b>Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity in Children Amy Fox	Saleem Aboite (Tax Accounting)
<b>Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Creativity, Ethics + Spirituality Sarah Trotter	Kelsey Whitney (Forensic Accounting)
<b>Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	The History + Philosophy of Creative Endeavor Catherine Evans	Kathleen Boenisch (Social Accounting)
<b>Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup></b>	The Opposite of Creativity? Routine Habits + Boredom Saleem Aboite	Paige Moody (Law)
<b>Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Final Presentations	
<b>Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Final Presentations Final Exam period is 8-10 AM on this day.	