

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire” - Yeats

## Green Sheet: Humanities One - ~~The Creative Mind~~ Creative Minds

Spring 2019

Instructor: Salamander Breiter

Office & Hours: F21s on M, T, W and Th from 1:30 – 2:20 + appt.

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**Description:** An introduction to the study of creativity in human life; its sources, development, social purposes, and role in culture change. Students analyze creativity as a central source of meaning and purpose in their lives as well as a development of their unique combination of human intelligences. Lives of creative people from all over the world are examined and contextualized. *This course is specifically designed to build commitment to civic and moral responsibility for diverse, equitable, healthy and sustainable communities. Students are expected to recognize themselves as members of larger social fabrics and to develop the abilities and motivation to take informed action for change.*

**Student Learning Outcome:** Synthesize critical thinking, imaginative, cooperative and empathetic abilities as whole persons in order to contextualize knowledge, interpret and communicate meaning, and cultivate their capacity for personal, as well as social change.

**Student Learning Outcome:** Cultivate and demonstrate awareness of the power of creativity and the potential of the creative process through direct involvement

### Required Texts:

- *Walking on Water* by Derrick Jensen  
read at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r5WylH55qRpjaCeGeWchI4lPYBKbnVwx/view>
- *The Element* by Ken Robinson  
read at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bydt2DNWRzNeTXMxRUSMa1VwVTg/view?usp=sharing>
- *The Adventures of Johnny Bunko* by Daniel H. Pink  
read at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bydt2DNWRzNeVm9U1INV0V1Ukk/view?usp=sharing>
- *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow  
download at <https://craphound.com/littlebrother/download/>

\* All books are on reserve at the De Anza library

\* A variety of links to additional online readings will be provided to you during the quarter

**Welcome:** I am incredibly excited to work with all of you. I have designed a course for you that I believe will be meaningful and accessible and that you will be able to be successful in. Please do not be intimidated by the number of assignments, as they follow a very predictable pattern.

There are really only 3 types of assignments and 1 type of exam. I have broken them into parts to make it easier to keep track of them and to facilitate ease of turning them in. By the end of the first week, I am confident that you will have a deep sense of the potential for your success and the rhythm of the quarter. Please bring me your concerns and questions so that I can help you prepare for a positive learning experience.

 **Canvas:** The reading and writing assignments in this class are arranged into easy to understand Canvas modules, accessed through your Portal account. You can use these modules to follow your progress through the course. On the homepage and on the calendar, you will be able to see the format and rhythm of the course and within each individual assignment you will find instructions/links to readings and specific explanations of my expectations for your writing.

## **Assignments and Exams:**

*Experiments (400 points total):* You will complete 5 experiential projects over the quarter with an increasing level of challenge and points. These projects will ask you to be more authentic in your “real” personal life by taking direct action on things that matter to you. Each experiment will last two weeks and will include Stages A, B, C and D. The general format for all of the experiments is similar, but the readings/topics and sphere of influence will change. You will be asked to self-score a portion of Stage C on each experiment to encourage your self-reflection. By the end of the quarter you will be able to demonstrate your capacity to create social change. This is your opportunity to learn creativity by actually utilizing it.

*Idea Reactions (250 points total):* You will write weekly reflections based on your life experiences, informed opinions, and personal perspectives related to each course reading and lecture. Weeks 2 through 11 are each worth 25 points (Week 1 is extra credit) and are broken into two portions. Before you come to class for discussion, you will submit your reactions to the weekly readings. After class discussion, you will have until midnight to submit your reactions to the lectures/discussions for the week. This process provides the intellectual backbone to our process of discourse and discovery in this course.

*Facilitation (50 points total):* You will facilitate reading discussion during class 2X during the quarter. Facilitation is worth 25 points each time. I will send around a sign-up sheet during the first part of the quarter so that you can select your dates. On the days you facilitate, prepare engaging open-ended questions and encourage each group member to have a unique answer in an atmosphere of respect. Your questions should fill one 8 ½ X 11 TYPED page. Bring 5 copies for your classmates + Turn in a copy during discussion (You will NOT submit the questions in Canvas). Facilitation may NOT be made up. If you plan on missing, switch with instructor beforehand!

*Exams (300 points total):* You will take 3 exams over the course of the quarter. Each exam is worth 100 points and has a mixture of multiple guess and short essay questions. The exams are not comprehensive and are open paper notes. You may NOT use books, neighbors, phones, computers... You will need to supply your own pencil and green SCANTRON #882-e. I offer the opportunity for you to make-up either exam 1 or exam 2 during a special 6:30 am meeting on Thursday of week 10 of the quarter. There will not be a make-up exam available for exam 3. Upon pre-arranged request, I can prepare an exam for you that has only essay questions.

*Extra Credit (45 points extra):* I strongly believe that extra-credit should not be used as a substitution for doing the work of this course in a timely manner, particularly because most of your due dates precede conversations with your classmates. They will be relying on you to make informed contributions to their learning experiences. That said, I do believe that extra-credit (coupled with a generous late policy) can relieve a great deal of stress or anxiety when unanticipated events occur in our life. For that reason, I have two extra-credit opportunities during the quarter. First, the 25 points possible for your idea reactions (reading and lecture/discussion) for Week 1 are in addition to the 250 points included in your grade. This gives you the opportunity to start the quarter ahead of the game. Second, during week 9 of the quarter, I will have an extra credit assignment related to role models that will be worth up to 20 points possible.

*Reminder:* Please see the weekly modules and calendar in your Canvas account to see specific reading assignments, writing prompts and due dates related to each type of assignment or exam.

## **Grading Scale:**

To keep the math relatively straightforward, I have designed this class to have assignments and exams that add up to 1000 points. Your grade at the end of the quarter will be based on how many points you have accumulated.

970+ = A+

930+ = A

900+ = A-

870+ = B+

830+ = B

800+ = B-

770+ = C+

700+ = C

670+ = D+

630+ = D

600+ = D-

599 - = F

## **The Fine Print:**

*Cell Phones:* I do not allow cell phone or text use during class. I have found that any academic or intellectual use of phones is far outweighed by the distraction they present to both user and neighbors. If you are expecting an important call or text, set your phone to vibrate and step outside the class for a moment to respond. If you forget and use your phone during class, I will respectfully ask you to leave class for the day. I will have no hard feelings and I hope that you will not have any toward me in return.

*Late Policy:* You can submit assignments late for a 10% reduction per day late – with no greater than a 50% reduction. This work can be turned in up until the Final exam, and will NOT be accepted after the Final Exam.

*Cheating Policy:* Your assignments in this class are all based on your life experiences, informed opinions, and personal perspectives. This means that everything you write should be from your own heart and mind. Any work turned in that is not your own, whether is plagiarized/copied or represents the ideas of others will be consider cheating. Cheating on worksheets, experiments, or exams one time will result in an automatic zero for that specific item. If you cheat a second time, you will receive an F in the class and I will file an official academic integrity violation report that will likely end up on your transcript.

*Absences:* If you miss more than five days of class without discussing your circumstances with me, I reserve the right to drop you from the course.

*Expectations:* I expect you to be on time to class and ready to begin at start of our meeting. That said, I would rather have you arrive late than not at all. If you come in after class starts, please respect your classmates by being stealthy.

*Changes:* I will not add any extra assignments or extra readings to your workload during the quarter. I will adhere to the due dates on your Canvas calendar and will not change them unless something significant occurs during the quarter. In the rare case that this occurs, I will notify you directly through e-mail.

**Student Support and Resources:**

I understand that your success in this course will be dependent on many factors in your life. Please let me help you find any academic support or personal support you need. This might range from accommodations from disability support services, to tutoring/writing help/academic stills building, to psychological counseling or a wide variety of life needs. On my faculty website and on Canvas, I have created a series of links you can use to find open help-desk hours or to make appointments both on and off campus. The Equity Initiative Resources link will open to a very long list of services and opportunities for support that I hope you will take advantage of. If you are not sure which of the services you need, I am happy to show you how to get help during office hours.