

IND-1194A: Art & Science of Creativity for Teachers Course Syllabus

- **Instructor: Dr. Maryam Torbati**
- **Number of Credits/Units: 3 Semester Credits/Units**
- **Format: Online Self-Paced Course**

Course Description:

Given the impact of creativity it is surprising that we rarely teach creativity as a subject in school, yet it might be a vital subject for our future. Harvard University considers creativity a foundational human behavior that must enrich any classroom from pre-K to doctoral level and even medical schools and MIT. It is not a mystical gift for the few. It can be taught and learned by almost everyone. As a foundational human ability creativity pervades all fields of human activity. There is room for everyone.

Introducing more creativity into your classroom and assignments does not have to make your job harder. It can make it a lot more interesting. Having to go home to a stack of dull papers to grade was never anyone's favorite part of teaching. Giving assignments that require more creativity will likely result in more engaging work for your students, and a more entertaining grading process for you.

This course encourages participants to synthesize a theoretical and experiential approach to the creative process as studied through the visual arts, music, and creative posting. Participants enter into the creative process as a means to develop creative self-expression, aesthetic sensibility, and an understanding of the arts. As the Common Core emphasizes analytical thinking: close reading of complex text, writing argumentation and explanation, and academic vocabulary; creative thinking involves being able to make new combinations (synthesis) and to be flexible with traditional concepts (divergent thinking). How do we integrate the analytical thinking skills of the Common Core with the creative thinking skills that are also necessary for college and career readiness?

What is the nature of creative? How does one think creatively? How can we nurture and stimulate our creativity to respond to the world around us? Creativity is not just about Art, but Artists' way of thinking, they seem to have figured out how to see possibilities in imaginative ways. Perhaps by studying artists to see how they think, we might discover ways to access our own creative abilities. But creative thought is only one part of the equation. There is creative process and

creativity illumination. How and why do teachers choose to be creative in delivering their lessons and paint instead of musical notes to express ideas? Does this artistic process inspire creativity?

This course will introduce participants to new ways of thinking and new processes for creative teaching, learning, and problem solving. The course provides tools and insights for applying creative thinking in each classroom and every lesson.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of significant creative processes (four steps) and to communicate contemporary creative decision making based upon relevant data and research.
- Understand the forces behind every creative decision and using the influence of diversity to improve teaching and learning.
- Demonstrate knowledge of steps to creative process.
- Become aware of the latest research in creativity.
- Identify their habitual patterns of thinking.
- Be a more creative teacher.
- Recognize and develop creative ideas.
- Overcome self-limiting beliefs.
- Practice ways of fostering a creative climate in the classroom.
- Recognize creative thinkers (from gifted & talented to second language learners to special need student).
- Reach the unreachable learners through creativity.
- Become a creative individual.
- Utilize research on Creativity in psychology and education from multicultural perspectives.
- Engage learning techniques that can be used with children to develop Creativity within the classroom.
- Utilize the research behind Creativity.
- Practice skills that encourages Creativity.
- Review and analyze strategies that support Creativity.
- Prepare activities that promote Creativity.
- Define “Creativity” in many perspectives.
- Organize the classroom environment to maximize Creativity instruction.
- Specify classroom conditions that promote students’ Creativity.
- Identify possible causes of lack of Creativity.

- Identify ways that technology can be used to assist a teacher in becoming more effective in creating Creativity in learning communities.
- Demonstrate a deep knowledge of Creativity.
- Apply a variety of Creative strategies to enhance learning, improve knowledge, and the power of solving problems.
- Discuss and identify what Creativity strategies align to common core standards.
- Develop, expand, or adapt effective and practical Creativity enhancing lessons.
- Implement these Creativity styles in different setting like reading, language arts, math, science, social studies, and many other subjects.
- Describe the Creative process in sequence.
- Describe how Creativity techniques can help ELD & Special Ed students.
- Summarize the importance of Motivation in the classroom.
- Formulate questions about aspects of Creativity.
- Analyze how learners learn to be Creative.
- Create appropriate materials to teach Creativity in depth and high-level critical thinking.

Textbooks - Read one of the following three books for Assignment 1.2

- Creativity in the Classroom by Starko 2019
- Nurturing Creativity in the Classroom by Kaufman 2018
- Teaching Common Core with Creativity by Kaufman 2019
- Creativity Everyday by Dewitt Jones 2007-2015
- Common Core Creativity by Carter 2017
- Thinking Out of the Box by Pinto 2017
- 101 Creative Ideas by Van Gundy 2018
- Creative Workout in the Classroom by De Bono 2017

CCSS Standards for the Art and Science of Creativity

- Describe and define what is creativity.
- Recognize the lack of creativity.
- Produce creative learning environments based on respect and mutual kindness toward one another.
- Compare and contrast different types of creativity.
- Development of critical thinking based on the best creative strategies.
- Why the classroom must be a microcosm of global environment.

Takeaways – What this course gives you:

- A focus on how students are thinking and how they can relate to each other and how they are growing as thinkers and learners.
- Insight on ways students develop problem-solving through creative thinking.
- A vision of building classrooms based on real life problems.
- Information on the expression of multi perspectives learning.
- Strategies for going beyond the classroom and text to connect with students' lives.
- Methods of classroom creativity in self-reflection, self-evaluation, and self-motivation.
- Tools to help teachers shape timely instructional strategies targeted to immediate student needs through diverse point of views.
- Techniques that can be used with children to develop creativity within the classroom.

Assignments

Assignment 1.1: Reflection and Goals

Reflect on your past experience with the Art of Creativity and describe your future goals for enhancing learning through the Art of Creativity course.

Assignment 1.2: Art of Creativity Book Review and Application

Required textbook.

Assignment 2.1: Readings/Videos to Acquaint You with the Art and Science of Creativity

This assignment will help you to understand and reflect on what you have read about and viewed and how you can transfer this knowledge to your classroom.

Assignment 3.1: Art and Science of Creativity Lesson Pre-Planning

Produce creative activities for implementing the Art of Creativity in your teaching curriculum.

Assignment 4.1 & 4.2: Lesson Plan and Presentation

Create a detailed, multi-paged, 3-Day lesson plan for applying the Art of Creativity methods in your curriculum.

Create a 10-slide *PowerPoint* project based on the course readings, to present to an audience of peers.

Forum Posting

Share your experience with other course participants