

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
COURSE SYLLABUS

COMM 5340

Instructor: Dr. Carol Hoyt

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

TERM: FA II, 03

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION: (Student focus, rationale, scope, prerequisites).

Participants explore a variety of art forms, including mime, mask, visual arts, improvisation, creative drama, movement, music, storytelling, writing, and poetry. Several art forms are blended for multimedia presentations.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES: (Goals, objectives, course outcomes, etc.)

The objectives of this course are to help students:

- Understand the potential of the arts to promote creative thinking, problem solving and integrated learning.
- Gain confidence in their innate talents and creativity by exploring a variety of forms of artistic expression.
- Deepen their appreciation for the art forms explored in the course.
- Discover ways to use these art forms in interdisciplinary ways with children and young people in classroom settings.
- Use the power of the arts to enrich existing curriculum.

NOTE: The exercises presented in the class are experiential, exploratory, playful, and improvisational. While no previous experience with artistic media is necessary, participants are encouraged to be open and willing to discover personal talents, develop skills, and build confidence in their ability to use these arts in the classroom.

3. SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED READINGS, CLASS PREPARATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS, LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, STUDENT PRESENTATIONS, AND EXAMS

WEEK ONE: October 30: The rigor of imagination: The landscape of creativity

- Overview of course
- Considering supports and constraints to creative activity
- The arts and cognition
- Making “creative” spaces.

Assignment for November 6: Read handouts assigned by instructor

WEEK TWO: November 6: The Constraints of Form: The Freedom of Play

- Movement, Imagination, and Creative Drama
- Improvisation and Theatre games in the classroom

Assignment for November 13: Please read handouts provided by the instructor. Complete "Creativity Profile".

WEEK THREE: November 13: The Constraints of Play: The Freedom of Form

- Turn in/Discuss "Creativity Profile"
- Preparing for formalized theatrical events.
- Script Writing as Publication

Assignment for November 20: Read Picture This: How Pictures Work by Molly Bang. (copies will be provided by the instructor). Also bring some materials from nature, leaves, small stones, or "natural" craft supplies.

WEEK FOUR: November 20: The Constraints of Syntax: The Freedom of Word Play

- Poetry Workshop
- Poetry slams
- Applying visual literacy: Blending text and visual images through collage.

Assignment for November 27: Please complete "Imagination and the Arts: Theorist Profile". Prepare to share findings with the class.

WEEK FIVE: November 27: Arts Focus TBA

- Imagination and the Arts: Theorist Profile due.
- Arts Focus will be determined by interests/needs of the class.

Assignment for December 4: Please read handouts provided by the instructor.

WEEK SIX: December 4: The Constraints of Tradition: The Freedom of Response:

- Mask, Myth, and Pop Culture
- Seeking archetypes in mass media.
- Mask making and mask dramas.

Assignment for December 11: Please read handouts provided by the instructor.

WEEK SEVEN December 11: The Constraints of Scale: The Freedom of Voice .

- Opera from Scratch
- Music and rhythm in the classroom

Assignment for December 18: Please be ready to present your final project to the class.

WEEK EIGHT: December 18: Final Projects Celebration

4. RESOURCES:

Required Text:

There is no required text for this course.

Reading materials will consist of handouts provided by the instructor as well as supplemental materials supporting course projects.

5. EVALUATION: Note: Additional requirements for all assignments will be provided by the instructor.

a). Attendance/Promptness: Because this course is highly participatory, attendance is essential. If you are forced to miss a class because of an emergency or illness, you will need to work with the instructor to develop an additional project that approximates the content/experiences missed. A continual pattern of tardiness will negatively impact your final grade.

b). Preparedness: Please bring requested materials to class and complete all readings.

c). Participation: Please come prepared to participate. Dress comfortably for movement, painting, sitting on the floor etc... If movement activities are difficult for you, please let the instructor know and we will accommodate your needs. You may wish to bring a paint shirt or apron with you.

d). Creativity Profile: You will be asked to create a short (3-5 page DS) paper discussing your sense of personal creativity. You may consider the factors that support and inhibit your sense of creativity. You may also discuss the ways in which you believe schools support and inhibit the creativity of learners. This may be a place to set individual goals for the course.

e). "Imagination and the Arts: Theorist Profile" For this project you are asked to investigate a major theorist in the area of imagination, arts integration, and learning. Your research should allow you to understand the basic tenants of their work as well as the real or potential impact of their ideas on educational settings/systems. You will present your findings in a short (4-

6 DS) paper and in a short (no more than 10 minute) presentation to the class.
Potential theorists to investigate:

Howard Gardner
Harold Broudy
Maxine Greene
Dorothy Heathcote
Viola Spolin
Kieran Egan
Helene Rosenberg.
Various theorists from Reggio-Emelia

The instructor will work with you to identify resources that will support your specific interests.

e). Final Project: You are asked to create a final project that integrates one, or more, of the techniques explored in the class to existing, or developing, curriculum in your classroom. Presentation of the project will take two forms:

A typewritten description of your project with enough detail that another teacher could easily use the plan. The Description should include:

- Grade/ Age Level to be served.
- Curriculum Objectives or Content Standards
- Description of Activities
- Adaptations for children with special needs.
- Materials needed
- Assessment Methods

A 10-15 minute presentation to the class in which you will share the highlights of your project. . During the oral presentation you should distribute a one-page abstract describing your project to each class member.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>
Preparedness:	20%
Creativity Profile:	10%
Imagination and the Arts: Theorist Profile	30%
Final Project:	40%

6. Return of Final Projects:

Final projects/papers will returned to students in the following manner:

Students should provide a self addressed stamped manila envelope to the instructor so that the project can be returned.

NOTE: Papers will not be available for pick-up in the M.A.T. .Office

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