

Psychology 607 S15: Creativity

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Office hours: Tues 10-12 or by appointment

Meetings: Wednesdays 10-11:50 in Straub 383

Overview: The scientific study of creativity has a somewhat checkered past filled with disputes about how creativity should be defined and measured and controversies over the role of expertise, intelligence, development, and personality variables in its expression. While most people would agree that creativity is important in everyday life and at the societal level, research on creativity has not always been a highly valued and central part of mainstream psychology. However, the last decade has seen a surge in new interdisciplinary work in this area and the publication of comprehensive texts that bring together a field that has been fragmented and filled with misconceptions. The topics in this seminar will include the history of creativity research, new individualist and sociocultural approaches, the creative process, the development of creativity, and how creativity differs across domains (visual arts, writing, music, theater, and science).

Readings:

We will be reading chapters from *Explaining creativity: The science of human innovation* (Sawyer, 2012) which is available at the UO Bookstore. The additional readings will be provided.

Grades: The most enjoyable seminars are those in which everyone comes to class well prepared and makes thoughtful contributions to the discussion. To enhance the quality of discussion, everyone should read and think about the assigned material before the relevant class meeting. Each week (except Week 1) you will be prepare a short reaction paper (1-2 page double-spaced typed) in which you discuss the week's readings and provide two or three discussion questions. Grades will be based on class attendance, participation in discussion, and the reaction papers.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

April 1 Background and history of research on creativity

Sawyer, R. K. (2012). *Explaining creativity*. Chapter 1 ("Introduction") pp. 3-14 and Chapter 2 ("Conceptions of creativity") pp. 14-36

Guilford, J.P. (1950). Creativity. *American Psychologist*, 5, 444-454.

April 8 Assessment of creativity

Sawyer, R. K. (2012). *Explaining creativity*. Chapter 3 ("Defining creativity through assessment") pp. 37-62.

Silvia, P. J., Winterstein, B. P., Willse, J. T., Barona, C. M., Cram, J. T., Hess, K. I.,

Martinez, J. L., Richard, C. A. (2008). Assessing creativity with divergent thinking tasks: Exploring the reliability and validity of new subjective scoring methods. *Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 2, 68-85.

April 15 Development of Creativity

Sawyer, R. K. (2012). Explaining creativity. Chapter 4 ("The creative personality") pp. 63-85.

Mottweiler, C. M., & Taylor, M. (2014). Elaborated role play and creativity in preschool age children. *Journal of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts*, 8, 277-286.

April 22 Creative Process: Incubation

Sawyer, R. K. (2012). Explaining creativity. Chapter 5 (The creative process, Part 1) pp. 86-105 and Chapter 6 ("The creative process, Part 2) pp. 107-127.

April 29 Creative process: Discernment

Sawyer, R. K. (2012). Explaining creativity. Chapter 7 ("The creative process, Part 3" pp. 129-142).

Kaufman, J. C. & Baer, J. (2012). Beyond new and appropriate: Who decides what is creative? *Creativity Research Journal*, 24, 83-91.

May 6 Group and Organizational approaches to creativity

Sawyer, R. K. (2012). Explaining creativity. Chapters 11 ("The sociology of creativity," pp. 211-229), 12 ("Group creativity," pp. 231-248), & 13 ("Organizational creativity," pp. 249-280).

May 13 Domains of creativity

Sawyer, R. K. (2012). *Explaining creativity*. Chapters 16 ("Visual arts" pp. 297-318), 17 ("Writing," pp. 319-336), 18 ("Music" pp. 337-356), 19 ("Theater," pp. 357-370) and /or 20 ("Science," pp. 371-386).

May 20 The neuroscience of creativity

Sawyer, R. K. (2012). Explaining creativity. Chapters 9 ("Biology and creativity," pp. 157-184), and 10 ("Cognitive neuroscience and creativity," pp. 185-207).

Dietrich, A. & Kanso, R. (2010). A review of EEG, ERP, and Neuroimaging studies of creativity and insight. *Psychological Bulletin*, 136, 822-848.

May 27 Strategies for increasing creativity

Sawyer, R. K. (2012). *Explaining creativity*. Chapter 22 ("How to be more creative") pp. 405-426.

Runco, M. A. (2014). *Creativity: Theories and themes: Research, development and practice*. San Diego CA: Elsevier Inc. Chapter 12 ("Enhancement and fulfillment of potential") pp. 335-387.

Csikszentmihalyi, M. (1996). *Creativity: Flow and the Psychology of Discovery and Invention*. New York: Harper Collins. Ch. 14 ("Enhancing personal creativity" pp. 343-372).

June 3

No class