Overview: The imagination is a powerful tool that is available to us throughout life, part of our biological endowment as human beings. With our imaginations, we can relive the past, plan and anticipate the future, process and come to terms with the issues in our present. The study of imagination crosscuts traditional areas in psychology and extends into other fields as well (e.g., philosophy, literature). In this course we will examine how psychologists think about and study human imagination, covering topics such as pretend play in children, counterfactual reasoning, imagery, mental time travel, creativity, consciousness, dreaming, mental illness, and the impact of technology on concepts of self and identity.

Note to Psychology majors: This course can be used to count towards the required upper division credits from List S (Social Science area). It cannot be used to count for List C (Science area).

Course requirements:

1. **Class attendance and participation:** The most enjoyable courses 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 the assigned material before the relevant class meeting. To encourage you to do so, students are required to post comments, questions and/or reactions to the reading on our Blackboard web site by 9:00 am on the morning of each class. You will be graded on your posted comments (each post is worth 5 pts). To receive the full number of points, a posted comment should be at least a paragraph long and the content should provide evidence that the student has read and thought about the assigned article. You are reading for knowledge and your post should explore the ideas in the article you have read. Your
class attendance will be 5 pts per class. To receive the full score you need to arrive on time and stay until the end of class. Students sometimes miss class due to sickness or other reasons. The quality of your posts and contributions to class discussions will be taken into account when assigning your grade for class participation. Thus you can make up for a missed class by taking an active part in other class meetings. On the other hand if you never speak up in class and your posts consistently reflect a superficial reading of the material, your grade for this part of the course will be reduced. (200 points: 100 for attendance, 85 for posts, and 15 for overall level of contribution to class meetings)

2. Discussion group: You will be assigned to one of six discussion groups. Each group will meet outside of class time to discuss a book that you will be reading together, work on a group project, and plan a presentation to the class. Your attendance at group meetings and contributions to the discussion of the book, and development of the project and class presentation will be part of your grade for the course.

The six discussion groups are:

1. Creativity

2. Giftedness

3. Consciousness

4. Dreaming

5. Neuroscience and imagination

6. The psychology of virtual worlds

The expectation is that you will meet several times to discuss the book and work on your class presentation. At least two weeks before your scheduled presentation, the group will meet with the professor and/or TA to go over the plan for the presentation. Additional meetings can be scheduled as needed/desired. After the group has presented to the class, each member of the
group will provide confidential evaluations of the other group members’ contributions to the
group meetings, discussion of book, development of project, and class presentation. Each
student will write a review (about 5 pages) of the book that was read by the group. As part of
your review, please provide a candid assessment of whether this book should be used again in
this course.

Evaluation of your contributions by other group members
(Attendance at meetings and participation in group discussions) 50 points
Completion of your evaluations of other group members
(must include commentary as well as numbers to get full points) 20 points
Book review (due on day of presentation) 50 points
Group Presentation 80 points
Total = 200

Note: Blackboard Discussion groups have been set up to provide a forum for communicating
with the other students in your discussion group.

3. Paper: Students will write a paper in which they summarize the research findings addressing
an important question about the psychology of imagination (about 15-20 pages). It is
recommended (but not required) that you pick a topic that is related to the topic of your group
presentation. (The reading you do for your paper will be great preparation for your classroom
presentation.)

This course is designed to help develop your writing skills. For this reason, there are several
deadlines associated with your review paper. Failure to meet deadlines 1, 2, and 3 will result in
forfeiting the points indicated below and you will not have the opportunity to receive feedback
on your outline/draft. Late papers will be marked down substantially.

1. April 16: Submit a proposal for your review paper. This will help us make sure that
your topic is appropriate for this assignment and allow us to give you some feedback
about possible sources of information. (20 points)
2. May 5: Submit a first draft of your review paper to be read by another student. I will
collect these papers, remove the cover pages with names, and then on May 7, I will pass
out these papers (with no identifying information) to students in the class for written
feedback. Thus, on May 7, everyone who turned in a paper on May 5 will be given a
paper by another student to review. In the past, some students have turned in “papers” at
this stage that were little more than outlines -- not finished enough to allow another
student to edit and give feedback. Your will not receive the full number of points of your
paper is not a reasonable draft. In extreme cases, your paper will be returned to you and
you will not be given another student’s paper to review. Note that the more complete
your paper is, the more help the student will be able to give you. (20 points)
3. May 12: Submit your written feedback plus the edited paper (20 points). On May 20,
I will give you back your own review paper, along with the peer review.
4. June 4: Turn in the final draft of your paper (140 points).
Grades: It is sometimes difficult for students to figure out what to expect for a grade in a course that has no exams, lots of little scores, points for participation, etc. For example, students who come to class every lecture and post their comments regularly tend to expect to receive an A. While it is true that it is difficult for students to get an A without doing those things, students who do not do a good job on their written work (book review and paper) will not receive an A in this course.

PSY 510: Graduate students who have registered for Psy 510 will be expected to submit more extensive written work than the undergraduates (about 6-8 pages for the book review; 20-25 pages for the literature review) and to play a prominent role in the class presentation.

Academic Honesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. No form of cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else’s product, words, ideas, or data as one’s own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate and specific references. On written assignments, if verbatim statements are included, the statements must be enclosed by quotation marks. Unauthorized collaboration with others on papers or projects can inadvertently lead to a charge of plagiarism. In addition, it is plagiarism to submit work in which portions were substantially produced by someone acting as a tutor or editor. If in doubt, consult the instructor or seek assistance from the staff of Academic Learning Services (68 PLC, 346-3226). If cheating is discovered on the assignments, then the University will be notified and appropriate action will be taken.

Accommodations: If one of the following applies to you, please see the instructor as soon as possible to make adjustments. You are strongly encouraged to contact Disability Services (346-1155) if you have a non-documented condition that creates difficulty for you as a student.

- Documented learning or medical disability
- Non-documented need for adjustments to help you learn
- On a sports team that travels this quarter
- English is not your first language

With advanced planning, adjustments are relatively straightforward. Adjustments at the last minute can be problematic and sometimes are not possible.

OUTLINE OF LECTURE TOPICS

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<td>March 30</td>
<td>Introduction to the study of imagination</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Organization of discussion groups</td>
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April 7  The development of pretend play

April 9  Interactions with invisible others

April 14  Imagination and emotion

April 16  Narrative and fiction

April 21  Memory and imagination

April 23  Mind wandering and mental time travel

April 28  Mental illness, creativity and imagination


April 30  
Imagination and dissociation  
Guest lecture by Deniz Tahiroglu (Readings to be announced)

May 5  
Film: The Sketches of Frank Gehry  
Deadline for first draft of paper. No required reading or post.

May 7  
The creative process  

May 12  
Roundtable on the creative process (invited guests)  

May 14  
Creativity (student presentation)  
Readings to be assigned by students; posts are due by 9:00 pm May 13

May 19  
Gifted children (student presentation)  
Readings to be assigned by students; posts are due by 9:00 pm May 18

May 21  
Consciousness (student presentation)  
Readings to be assigned by students; posts are due by 9:00 pm May 20

May 26  
Dreaming (student presentation)  
Readings to be assigned by students; posts are due by 9:00 pm May 25

May 28  
Neuroscience and imagination (student presentation)  
Readings to be assigned by students; posts are due by 9:00 pm May 27

June 2  
Second Life (student presentation)  
Readings to be assigned by students; posts are due by 9:00 pm June 1

June 4  
Summary  
Deadline for final draft of paper. No required reading or post.