Psychology 607
Creativity

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Office hours: Wed 2-3, Thurs 11-12, or by appointment

MEETINGS: Monday 10 to 11:50; Straub 143

OVERVIEW: Creativity is a multifaceted complex phenomenon, including dispositional, intellectual, and environmental components, some of which might be domain-specific and some of which might be more general. Research on this topic varies in whether the focus is on the ideas themselves, the processes that resulted in the generation of the ideas, personality variables that are associated with the inclination or motivation to develop new ideas, or the context that facilitates the generation of new ideas. Some theories include the ability to identify an important or interesting problem, to generate and develop ideas, to judge the ideas, and to persuade others of the utility of the ideas. The possibility that children might be creative is sometimes defined away by restricting the term to important human achievements in art, literature, and science that have been recognized as of value to society. In contrast, other researchers are interested in creativity as a characteristic feature of human cognition and investigate the role of creativity in everyday thinking, opening the door for the possibility of creativity in children’s behavior. In this seminar we will review these different perspectives, discuss measurement issues, and consider how the study of creativity might be important for understanding a range of topics in cognitive, social and clinical psychology.

READINGS: The readings will be available on Blackboard. The assignments are likely to be adjusted somewhat as we go along.

GRADES: Grades will be based on class attendance, participation in discussion, a five-page paper proposing a study for investigating an issue related to the study of creativity and a presentation of your research idea to the class. The papers are due on December 6.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

September 27 Organizational meeting

October 4  General issues


October 11  Measurement of creativity


October 18  Domains of creativity


October 25  Creative process


**November 1  The creative brain**


**November 8  Development of creativity**


**November 15  Discussion of research proposals**
Readings to be assigned by students

**November 22  Discussion of research proposals**
Readings to be assigned by students

**November 29  Discussion of research proposals**
Readings to be assigned by students
December 6        Papers due
Other Readings


