

Creativity in the Headlines
Winter 2016

Fridays 10 am - 12:30 pm
2/12/2015 - 3/4/2015
Gleacher Center

Instructor: Jason Cather

Contact: cather@uchicago.edu

Students seeking disability accommodations should contact or meet with the Director or Assistant Director for Student Disability Services (gmoorehead@uchicago.edu) or (lawsond@uchicago.edu) to initiate the accommodation process. The Director or Assistant Director will acquaint you with the required documentation, which should be submitted promptly. If a disability determination is made, your area Dean of Students will facilitate the implementation of approved auxiliary aids and services. For information regarding the Student Disability Accommodation process, visit: <http://disabilities.uchicago.edu>, or visit the office in room 234 of the Administration Building, or dial 773-702-776 or TTY 773-795-1186

Texts:

Blank journal or composition book (with at least 100 pages)
Other readings will be available electronically as PDFs.

Course Description:

This course will focus on discussions of creativity in popular media. Class members will be asked to identify and analyze current news stories about creativity that relate to the following topics: (1) art, entertainment, and culture; (2) technology, business, and sustainable development; (3) science and health; and (4) education and practices for fostering creativity. Please contact the instructor in advance for the reading for the first class.

Weekly Topics and Readings:

Note: Readings subject to change. Each week we will consider different topics relating to hope. In addition to the readings/video listed below, please read the news and e-mail articles related to the week's topic to the instructor (cather@uchicago.edu) by Sunday evening at 9:00pm. The instructor will then select a few of the articles and distribute them to the class via email on Tuesday.

Activities: If you participated in the course on the power of creativity, I would like to ask that you continue your morning pages. If you did not, here is a recap: In preparation for our discussion on the fourth week, I am asking you to complete a daily writing exercise called *morning pages*. The idea of this activity is to write at least three pages on any topic (or no topic in particular) in your notebook or journal every single morning throughout the four weeks of the course. Since one of our topics will be how (or if) creativity can be cultivated, I want us to reflect on the results of this exercise in the fourth week. For more on morning pages, see this video on Julia Cameron's website:

<http://juliacameronlive.com/basic-tools/morning-pages/>

In addition to your morning pages, there is a weekly activity that you may wish to try as well. For more on this, see this video: <http://juliacameronlive.com/basic-tools/artists-dates/>

Week 1: Art, Entertainment, and Culture (2/12)

- TED Talk: Elizabeth Gilbert, “Your Elusive Creative Genius,” available online
https://www.ted.com/talks/elizabeth_gilbert_on_genius#t-621578

Week 2: Technology, Business, and Sustainable Development (2/19)

- “Why Today’s Inventors Need to Read More Science Fiction” in *The Atlantic*.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/09/why-todays-inventors-need-to-read-more-science-fiction/279793/>

Week 3: Science and Health (2/26)

- Extra Credits: The Broad Street Pump (four videos, under 10 minutes each)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLpzHHbFrHY> then click “next,” or:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jlsyucUwpo> then click “next,” or:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NVT6iZP2qg> then click “next,” or:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cba7di0eL8I>

Week 4: Education and Fostering Creativity (3/4)

- Please bring your journal with your morning pages for discussion.