Creativity is a subject in which I have long been interested. This course in Creative Imagination is an outgrowth of that interest. I suspect that each of us has a personal idea or definition of creativity. We also, probably, have some estimation of how personally creative we are. This estimation of creativity, if my experience is any guide, is more than likely too low. I believe that the ability to be creative, innovative and imaginative can be enhanced by learning how to understand the constructs of creativity and by the use of lateral thinking. This course will offer you both dydatic and experiential instruction to stimulate your ability to be creative....to think creatively....to problem solve in new and unexpected ways.

Because of the experiential nature of the course, attendance is of ultimate importance. To that end, one quarter of your grade is dependent on your attendance. Every time you come to class you will receive 5 points toward your final grade. A feature of attendance that is very important to me is promptness. To that end, three tardies count as one absence. It’s quite simple: come to class and be here on time.

Also: There are 10 mini papers due on specific dates. These papers must be written or typed on 5 X 7” note cards. They must be turned in on time. They must be written in complete sentences and spelling will count. A creative speller myself, I have learned to use the dictionary to make sure that I can be proud of my work. This class assignment should help you learn the same lesson.

Relax and enjoy this unique class. I hope you can look forward to attending it each meeting and that you learn something each meeting and that you get to know your fellow students and form lasting creative bonds with them. Classroom atmosphere is important to me and to the learning environment. I count on that atmosphere being supportive and positive. I reserve the right to withdraw students who consistently disregard or disrespect that atmosphere.
When you complete this course, you can expect to:

Understand and be able to articulate a definition of creativity.
Know something about the research and researchers in the field of creativity.
Understand visual thinking.
Have a grasp on how to enhance your own creativity.
Explain lateral thinking.
Be familiar with theories on right brain/left brain learning/perception.
Have increased insight into your personal blocks to creativity.
Be able to solve problems creatively in a variety of manners.
Appreciate what is imaginative and creative in the domains of film, literature, and visual art work.
Be able to make more deliberate and careful observations.
Use symbols easily to describe your imagination and to demonstrate your creativity.

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Professor McCall’s Rules and Recommendations
Very Good to Read if You Want a Good Grade

These are in no particular order. They all apply. You should read them all and follow the advice.

I adhere to the College’s attendance policy. (See the College Catalog) In addition, every three lateness count as one absence. It is quite simple: come and be on time. I will withdraw you or fail you for excessive absences. Excessive absence is defined in the College Catalog. If you come to a studio class unprepared to work, that will count as an absence. If you sleep during class, that will count as an absence. If you refuse to work during class, that will count as an absence. These are hard and fast rules. If you come late, it is your responsibility to see that I have changed the absence to lateness. If you are so late that you have missed a significant amount of class time, you may receive one half absence. There is no leaving early. Exercises are designed to account for time on task. If you think you are finished, call me over to discuss your options for the remainder
of class time. If you leave early without permission, you will receive a “late” in my records and that counts the same as if you came in late.

All cell phones and beepers must be turned off and OUT OF SIGHT. You may not answer the phone or a page during class. You may not leave the classroom to take a call. You are unavailable to outside communication during this class. Voice Mail has a purpose. Once class is over, you may check, but remember. Cell Phones and beepers are not to be seen in this classroom. If your phone rings during class time, the Attitude Points part of your grade will be diminished.

Studio time must be silent. There is no “chit chatting”. This is done for a purpose: talking takes you to the left hemisphere of your brain where the language center is located. I teach a “Right-side of the brain” course. You may use headphone for your music. If I can hear it, it is too loud and I will ask you to turn it down.

You must buy the supplies for this class. You must bring those supplies to studio. You cannot use yellow #2 pencils. You must buy the recommended colored pencils. You cannot depend on your neighbors to borrow equipment. A list is provided for you. Once again, points will be deducted for lack of compliance.

There is no whining in this class. Phrases like “This is too hard.” or “I can’t do this” or “This assignment is boring” are all considered whining. You must put forth your best effort and ask for help when you really need it. You may not whine. You are expected to take instruction and listen to the advice given to you. This is a skills class and you are not necessarily going to have all the skills when you first start. The course is designed to help you build the skills and put them together to produce drawings.

Proper respect will be exhibited toward other students and the professor. Failure to do so may result in withdrawal from the class. Adult behavior is expected when a model is present in the room. You must be very conscious not to leave or come into the room during model time. Opening the door is compromising to the privacy of the model. Models are employed and paid a fee for student drawing. You may not photograph them or ask them for more time than the professor stipulates.

From time to time I may ask you to change your seat or to draw in a different position (at an easel or on a drawing bench). These requests are to teach you alternate ways of observation and practice. Please be willing to take these risks and to try new experiences.

YOU MUST BUY THE TEXT BOOK if one is specified. The Drawing I text is a workbook and is necessary to do the work in class. Bring is with you. You will be expected to use is in some of the exercises carried out in class. It’s mandatory.

Participation in the critique process is an essential part of this class. Your work must be displayed in critique. You must talk about your own work and begin to publically discuss the strengths and weaknesses of your drawings. You must learn to make helpful comments about your fellow classmates’ work. Asking good questions and for their advice is an appropriate way to start to
participate in the critique process. Once again, attitude points will be deducted if you do not actively participate.

I make every possible effort to respect you. Please respect me. If you want to speak to me in private, my office is in the Orient Building (122). Please come to see me during posted office hours.

In short these are the essentials. You are best off if you read this entire document so that there are no surprises later.

1. SHOW UP
2. PAY ATTENTION
3. ASK QUESTIONS
4. GET HELP BEFORE YOU REALLY NEED IT
5. WILLINGLY HELP OTHERS
6. “I CAN’T” IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH “I DON’T WANT TO.”
7. YOU DON’T HAVE TO “LIKE” A TAWSK TO EXCEL AT IT.
8. CURiosITIES AND RISK TAKING ALWAYS BEAT INTELLIGENCE AND RAW TALENT.
9. THE PROBLEM ISN’T THE PROBLEM. HOW YOU HANDLE THE PROBLEM -- THAT’S THE PROBLEM.
10. DON’T EVEN THINK ABOUT QUITTING.
11. COMPLAINING IS A WASTE OF TIME AND ENERGY.
12. BEING ON TIME IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF CHARACTER.
13. COURTESY AND RESPECT TOWARD YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATES IS MANDATORY.
14. ADULT BEHAVIOR IS EXPECTED.
15. YOU MUST COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO WORK.
16. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND MARKED ABSENT.