Topics in Communication: Creativity, Culture, and Change
HU 4890  Fall 2011
Professor Jennifer Daryl Slack <jdslack@mtu.edu>  304 Walker Hall  Office hours: 12:30-2pm Tu&Th
Also by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Examines the sources of creativity and the ways that it has been used to change cultural values, feelings, beliefs, and practices. A project based course that cultivates and applies creative action toward cultural change.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
✓ To understand the sources of creativity
✓ To understand the sources of cultural change
✓ To examine projects that use creativity to cultivate cultural change
✓ To develop individual creativity
✓ To create a project designed to enhance cultural change

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
† Readings: complete by date on syllabus
† 1 paper (Assessment of your creative self); small assignments (eg, examples of others’ creative projects); one major creative project (with documentation)

REQUIRED READINGS:

GRADING:
Grade Breakdown: Creative Assessment 20%; Small Assignments, Attendance, Participation 20%; Final Project 60%

ADDITIONAL GRADING AND COURSE POLICIES:
1. You must complete all assignments/projects to pass the class
2. You must write well. Your grade will be affected by your writing. If you have any difficulty with writing or seek to improve your writing, please work with the Writing Center.
4. You are allowed to use laptops (or smartphones) in class. However, there is to be no texting, no checking email, no unauthorized internet browsing. Please be respectful of this as we find our way around responsibly in the new media environment

UNIVERSITY POLICIES
+++ Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance with the University’s policies.
+++ If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please address this as soon as possible. The Affirmative Action office has asked that you be made aware of the following;
+++ Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please contact the Disability Services Office at 906-487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 906-487-3310.
+++ Academic Integrity Policies: www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html
+++ Academic integrity. Any instance of academic dishonesty (for example, plagiarism) will result in your being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Document any sources you use in your work. Please refer to the MTU Academic Integrity Policy
+++ Affirmative Action Policies: www.admin.mtu.edu/aac/
+++ Disability Services Policies: www.admin.mtu.edu/ure/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability
CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to alteration as needed)

**The Sources of Creativity, The Myth of Talent, Roadblocks to Creativity**

Aug 30 (T)  Introduction (the recycling flash mob: piano keys)
Sep 1 (TH)  Mindfulness, Authenticity  Langer, Intro, Ch 1, Ch 2
Sep 6 (T)  Evaluation, Mistakes, Absolutes  Langer, Ch 3, 4, 5
Sep 8 (TH)  Comparison, Talent, Knowing  Langer, Ch 6, 7, 8
Sep 13 (T)  Preferences, Choices
Sep 15 (TH)  Assessing your creative self  Langer, Ch 9, Ch 10, Epilogue
Sep 20 (T)  Assessing your creative self
Sep 22 (Th)

**Creative Projects**

Sep 27 (T)  Career Day
Sep 29 (Th)  Paradise Lost
Oct 4 (T)  Wasteland
Oct 6 (Th)  The Recycled Housing Project

**The Sources of Success**

Oct 11 (T)  Opportunity  Gladwell, Intro, Part I
Oct 13 (Th)  Legacy  Gladwell, Part II

**Cultural Change**

Oct 18 (T)  How Change Happens  Solnit, Chapters 1-12
Oct 20 (Th)  13-21

**Brainstorming**

Oct 25 (T)  Brainstorming
Oct 27 (Th)

**Creative Projects**

Nov 1 (T)  Graffiti: Exit Through the Gift Shop
Nov 3 (Th)  Questionable Projects (Help! Consumer-Mocking Artists Just Ate My Store)
Nov 8 (T)  Other projects
Nov 10 (Th)
Nov 15 (T)  Other projects
Nov 17 (Th)  Thanksgiving Break Nov 19-27

Nov 29 (T)  Project Demos - Discussion
Dec 1 (Th)  Project Demos - Discussion
Dec 6 (T)  Project Demos - Discussion
Dec 8 (Th)  Project Demos - Discussion