

CREATIVITY IN ACTION

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Levels B2 – C2

Some of the questions we will be asking ourselves in this course: What is creativity? Is there a connection between madness and creative thinking? Is creativity in our genes? Is creativity the ability to 'think out of the box'? Can I learn how to think like Newton?

These are exciting times if you are interested in creativity and innovation. Creativity research has made significant progress over the last few decades and psychologists in this field have been able to shed some light on a few questions that have traditionally been hugely controversial.

In this very practical, interactive course, we will first focus on the **different types of creativity**, we will then break down the **key aspects of creative thinking**, and we will try to analyze how some eminent creative individuals approach the **problem-solving process** (from da Vinci and Einstein to Bach, to Coltrane, to Sherlock Holmes!) Most importantly, though, we will zoom in on the **key strategies** anyone can use to boost their creative potential.

The course is interactive, so your **active participation** is required: you will practice your language skills, as well as your thinking skills in discussions, in group projects, in pair work activities, and you will be exposed to a variety of input ranging from mini-lectures, to videos, to texts.

Evaluation will be based on 50% participation (attendance, punctuality and involvement in group activities and group projects) and 50% for a critical presentation of a creative individual for their choice, OR a presentation linked to an issue related to creativity and innovation.

References:

Amabile, T.(1996) *Creativity in Context*. Westview Press.

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Gardner, H. (1998) *Creative Minds*. Basic Books.

Pugliese, C. (2010) *Being Creative: The Challenge of Change in the Classroom*. (DELTA)

Robinson, K. (2001) *Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative*. Capstone

Sternberg, R (Ed) (1999) *The Handbook of Creativity*. CUP

