



Course Syllabus

Course:	EDZU 9963	Fostering Creativity in the Classroom
Credit Hours:	3.0 credits / 45 hours	
Instructor:	Lisa Seligson	

Course Description

Being creative has a positive effect on a person's social emotional, psychological and physical wellbeing. Helping our students to be more creative can help them to build confidence and problem solving skills. Some of the units we will explore in this course are: The Importance of Developing Creativity, The Effect of Classroom Design and Environment on Creativity, How Technology Impacts Creativity, and Strategies to Foster Creativity in the Classroom. I will provide teachers in grades Pre-K-12 with meaningful, engaging experiences to help foster creativity in your classroom.

Course Goals

To Know

1. How to incorporate creativity into daily lessons
2. How to develop assessments that promote creativity
3. How to design a classroom to foster creativity

To Understand

1. That the language you use impacts the creativity of your students
2. The effects of technology on creativity
3. The impact of creative thinking on student performance

and To Be Able To

1. Identify books and music that promote creative thinking for your grade level(s)
2. Create activities that incorporate creativity
3. Provide a classroom environment that fosters creativity

Course Outline

Unit 1: Defining Creativity and the Importance of Developing Creativity

- A. Understanding Creativity
- B. The Importance of Creativity in Student Performance
- C. Can Creativity Be Taught

Unit 2: The Effect of Classroom Design and Environment on Creativity

- A. Classroom Design Aspects that Foster Creativity
- B. Questions to Ask that Encourage Creativity
- C. Why Play is Important to Encouraging Creativity
- D. How to Add Play to Your Classroom

Unit 3: Strategies to Promote Creativity in the Classroom

- A. Creative Habits vs. Creative Momentum
- B. Habits of Original Thinkers
- C. Using Books to Inspire Creativity
- D. Using Music to Promote Creativity
- E. Journaling Prompts that Encourage Creativity

Unit 4: How Technology Impacts Creativity

- A. Accessing Creative Tools
- B. Creative Projects Using Technology
- C. The Effects of Artificial Intelligence on Creativity
- D. Negative Effects of Technology on Creativity

Unit 5: Assessments and Creativity

- A. Understanding the Torrance Test of Creativity
- B. Assessments that Inspire Creativity
- C. Assessing Creativity

Methods of Instruction

Teachers enrolled in this course will evaluate primary and secondary sources and presentations in order to better understand the factors that affect the creativity of their students. They will complete assignments that assess their understanding of creativity and ways to foster the creativity of their students. Participants will be challenged to apply their learning immediately to their own classrooms, school districts, and communities.

Students will connect with each other throughout the course within forums and various other types of online feedback options built into each class.

Methods of Assessment

A student must complete all of the assigned reading assignments, participate in each forum and complete the final graduate assignment to create a resource guide for classroom teachers to help foster creativity in their students. The guide may include classroom design and language ideas, activities and projects, books/music, and assessment ideas that would be helpful to use.

To receive an A in this course include resources from all four of these topics.

To receive a B, choose two of the four to include.

Instructors are online each day of the course and correspond with students through the course itself, feedback on assignments, and e-mail.

Time Validation

Assignment	Time (in hours)
Introductory documents (About the Instructors, Teacher Expectations, Troubleshooting)	0.50
Forum #1: Autobiography	0.50
Read the article on understanding creativity and answer the questions (assignment 1)	1.50
Watch the Ted Talk and discuss the barriers to creativity in the classroom (assignment 2)	1.50
Read the two articles and respond to the benefits they discuss and you have seen by promoting creativity in the classroom.	2.00
Watch the video about teaching creativity. Answer the questions and share your thoughts on a teacher's ability to teach and assess creativity.	2.00
Forum #2: Share your thoughts on your own creative ability. How do you think this affects your ability to foster creativity in your students.	0.50
Read the articles on classroom design and complete the chart analyzing the effectiveness of your set-up and adaptations you could make.	1.50
View the video and give five examples of questions you typically ask and how you can alter them to encourage creativity.	2.00
Read the article that is appropriate for your grade level. Choose one activity you currently do with your students and adapt it to include age appropriate play that could enhance the activity.	2.00
Forum # 3: Share your thoughts on play/recess and how you think it should be handled for your grade level/subject.	0.50
Watch the video and use the information from the video to analyze three routines/habits that are present in your classroom. Discuss changes you would make to get the creative momentum flowing.	2.50
Watch the Ted Talk and summarize the three habits he discusses and ways you can develop these habits in your students.	2.00
Review the book lists for the grade level you teach. Choose a book and create a lesson plan using the book to inspire creativity in your students.	2.00

Read the articles. Summarize both articles and discuss your opinion.	2.00
Read the article and answer the questions	2.00
Forum #4: Share songs you would add to a playlist that would inspire creativity for your students.	0.50
Listen to the podcast and read the article on journaling. Write a response to the ideas shared in both.	2.00
Review the list of journaling prompts. Choose one and take 20 minutes to write about the prompt. Share your writing and then discuss how you felt before, during and after this exercise.	2.00
Forum #5: Share some journaling prompts you feel would benefit the creative process for your students.	0.50
Watch the video and discuss the role a teacher plays in helping students to use them.	2.00
Watch the video. Choose one of the resources discussed and create a sample for your students.	2.50
View the Ted Talk and answer the questions.	2.00
Read the article and discuss the negative impacts discussed in the article. Share examples that you have observed with your own students.	2.00
Read the article]]to gain an understanding of the assessment. Try the sample with a group of students and discuss your observations.	2.00
Read the article about assessing creativity. Choose a piece of work from one of your students or use one of the samples given and complete the rubric. Write a blurb of how you would conference with the student.	1.50
Listen to the podcast and read the article in the link. Discuss the three shifts Dr. Spencer refers to and how you feel they impact the assessments you use. (assignment 21)	1.50
Total Hours	45.0