

# UGS 303: Creative Problem Solving

## Syllabus

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**Fulfilling Requirements:** This class has no pre-requisites and satisfies the requirement for a Signature Course. This class meets the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**Educational Objectives:** **1)** To establish a perspective on the role of creative problem solving in contemporary society as both an engine for economic development and a means for personal satisfaction and accomplishment. **2)** To learn mechanisms for improving individual creative problem solving capabilities through greater understanding of case studies in a variety of disciplines. **3)** To stimulate a propensity to approach a broad range of problems of everyday life and a broad range of career opportunities with greater creativity. **4)** To encourage a lifestyle and pattern of lifelong learning that will enable a continuous growth of creative problem solving capabilities.

**Educational Approach:** This will be a reading/looking/listening/thinking course. It will follow a fairly conventional lecture format supplemented by extensive outside reading and discussion in sections. Most presentations will be illustrated by slides. We will be using plus/minus grading. Accommodations for students with special needs will be made cheerfully. See <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/> or call 512-471-6259.

**Evaluation:** As in life, your success in this class will be based on 'a thousand little things' you did well (or not so well). Evaluation will be drawn from performance in seven areas:

1. Twitter Cards: short responses required for each lecture — 15%
2. Think Sheets (5): based on readings will be required throughout the semester — 20%
3. Tests (2): each covering 6-7 weeks of course content (lectures and readings) — 20%
4. Final: a comprehensive final will be given during the finals period — 15%
5. Written Report: on your semester-long project — 10%
6. Pecha Kucha: oral report given in discussion section — 5%
7. Class participation: in discussion sections with TA — 15%

**Required Materials:** **1)** Readings will be assigned from the UGS 303 reader available at The Co-op. **2)** 3" x 5" index cards for 'twitter card' responses.

**Policies:** **1)** In any of your writing, if words or ideas are not your own, you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism. **2)** Laptop computers and similar devices can only be used in class with special permission. No cell phones or other mobile devices can be out during class. **3)** Discussion sections will have field trips that go beyond the classroom, in particular to gems of the university like the Blanton Museum of Art and the Humanities Research Center. **4)** Special sessions to replace a lecture may be scheduled outside of normal class time. **5)** No late Twitter Cards will be accepted and no make-ups will be given for tests unless there is a documented reason for absence from class—illness, family emergency or religious holiday. **6)** Grades on assignments will drop one letter for each week they are late.