

School of Theology and Ministry
Seattle University
901 12th Avenue, PO Box 222000
Seattle, WA 98122-1090

Spring Quarter 2014

COURSE INFORMATION

STMM 5930 Creativity and Spirituality

WKND: 4/5-6, 5/17-18 (Sa 8:30am-4:30pm, Su
9am-4pm)

Classroom: HUNT 100

Prerequisites: none

INSTRUCTORS

Alexandra Kovats CSJP PhD

Elizabeth O'Herlihey MA

Office: TBA

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Phone: 206 322 8560

SU Email: kovatsa@seattleu.edu

TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Required Texts

Fox, Matthew. *Creativity: Where the Divine and the Human Meet*.
New York: Tarcher/Putnam, 2002.

Kallos, Stephanie. *Broken for You* (novel) New York: Grove Press, 2004.

MacIver, Roderick. *Art as a Way of Life*. Ferrisburg, VT: Heron Dance Press, 2009.

Phillips, Jan. *No Ordinary Time: The Rise of Spiritual Intelligence and
Evolutionary Creativity*. San Diego, CA: Livingkindness Foundation, 2011.

Materials to Bring to Class: TBA

Supplemental Texts

Kincannon, Karla M. *Creativity and the Divine Surprise: Finding the Place
of Your Resurrection*. Nashville, TN: Upper Room, 2005.

Nachmanovitch, Stephen. *Free Play: Improvisation in Life and Art*.
New York: Tarcher/Putnam, 1990.

May, Rollo. *The Courage to Create*. New York: Bantam, 1980.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the gift of creativity, the birthright of every human being, as an essential component of Christian Spirituality. Human creativity will be explored in the context of cosmic creativity. The meaning of creativity and the creative process and their relationship to spirituality will be examined and experienced through lecture, reflection, dialogue and various art forms. The insights of Christian mystics and artists will be incorporated and highlighted throughout the course.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the meaning of creativity and the creative process as it relates to spirituality.
2. To experience and become familiar with various expressions of creativity through word, movement, the visual arts, music and the imagination.
3. To deepen one's process of self-reflection and to be able to articulate one's unique creative process and one's spirituality in a creative form.
4. To become familiar with the helps and hindrances that inform the creative process, especially as they are experienced in one's life.
5. To deepen one's understanding of the creative process and learn how to encourage creativity in others.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Ability to articulate and engage with one's own creative process.
- Ability to articulate the relationship between cosmic and human creativity.
- Ability to express one's spirituality through a creative form.
- Deepen self-knowledge and awareness regarding helps and hindrances in one's own creative process.
- Celebrate the unique creativity of each participant in the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend all class sessions. Consult instructor if emergency arises.
2. Read required texts and be prepared to discuss them in class.
For first weekend: *Creativity, Broken For You, Art as a Way of Life*
For second weekend: *No Ordinary Time*.
3. Participate in and reflect on the creative experiences and meditations introduced during class sessions.
4. **Book Reflection:**
Write a 3-4 page, double spaced reflection on the book, *Broken for You*, in light of the themes of belonging, fears and transformation. Connect those themes with your own personal experience.

Due: April 5, 2014

5. Final Project:

A.) Choose a creative form (story, poetry, movement, fabric art, collage, creative ritual, painting, etc.) to express your spiritual journey. After creating it, please reflect how it includes your relationship with God, Jesus, others, creation, body and self, as well as your prayer and justice life.

B.) Write a 2-3 page, double spaced summary of your creative process as you reflect on the creating of your Final Project.

C.) Prepare a **10 minute presentation** of your Final Project focused on your spiritual journey through this creative process. It will take place on the final day of class.

Final Project Due: May 18, 2014

GRADING WEIGHT AND SCALE

Class attendance and participation	25%
Required/recommended texts	20%
Book Reflection	15%
Final Project	40%

POLICIES

- Attendance of all class sessions and being on time is required. Informed participation in large and small group discussions and prayer experiences is expected.
- The primary communication in this class is dialogue, rather than debate or argument so students can feel free to share and reflect on their sacred stories and creative processes in a safe environment.
- Academic Honesty (including plagiarism): The School of Theology and Ministry strictly adheres to the academic policy regarding Academic Integrity as indicated on the Seattle University Registrar website, as noted in the box below.
- Disability: If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an 'invisible disability' such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, please see related note in the box below.

SCHEDULE OF COURSE ACTIVITIES

First Weekend, April 5& 6

Saturday Morning: Introduction to Course

Spirituality and Creativity
The Cosmic Context of Creativity
Reading Focus: *Creativity* by Fox

Saturday Afternoon: Creativity and the Spiritual Journey

Reading Focus: *Broken for You*
Creative Process: Exploration in Pastels

Sunday Morning: Creativity and Spirituality through Word

Reading Focus: *Broken for You*
Creative Process: Writing---Voice Lessons

Sunday Afternoon: Support for the Creative Path

Reading Focus: *Art as a Way of Life*
Creative Process: Soul Collage with Mary Ellen Weber

Second Weekend, May 17 & 18

Saturday Morning: Art as Meditation

Focus: *No Ordinary Time*
Creative Process: Meditation and Clay

Saturday Afternoon: Creativity, Justice and Compassion

Focus: *No Ordinary Time*
Creative Process: Movement/Choreopoem

Sunday Morning: Festival of Creativity

Student Presentations

Sunday Afternoon: Festival of Creativity – continued

Student Presentations

University Resources and Policies

Academic Resources

- Library and Learning Commons (<http://www.seattleu.edu/learningcommons/>)
 - *(This includes: Learning Assistance Programs, Research [Library] Services, Writing Center, Math Lab)*
- Academic Integrity Tutorial *(found on Angel and SU Online)*

Academic Policies on Registrar website (<https://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/academics/performance/>)

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Grading Grievance Policy
- Professional Conduct Policy *(only for those professional programs to which it applies)*

Notice for students concerning Disabilities

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an 'invisible disability' such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff located in Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course

STMM 5930 SPIRITUALITY AND CREATIVITY

Name: _____

Ministry: _____

Program: _____

1. Why have you decided to participate in this class?

2. Please name and describe three objectives you hope to realize during the time of this course.

A.

B.

C.

3. Do you have any fears or concerns about engaging in a class on Spirituality and Creativity? If so, please take a moment to reflect on them here.

4. What situations/processes/activities provide the best learning for you?

5. In *Creativity and Divine Surprise*, Karla M. Kincannon writes:

Whenever we embrace creativity, we come closer to embodying the person God Intends us to be. Though most of us acknowledge some ability to love, many think we possess no capacity for creativity. In my ministry, I meet individuals who think they lack creativity because they cannot make art; but they can create a satisfying meal from a nearly empty pantry or conduct a business meeting in which opposing constituents work out a compromise. Creativity is so much more than art making. It is a tool for navigating through every day experiences to find the sacred in each God-given moment.

What has been your experience of creativity in your life?

6. What is standing in the way of developing your creativity? How can you overcome your obstacles? Be as specific as you can be.

7. What activities/circumstances/people/situations help you to nourish your creativity?

8. What questions/concerns do you have about spirituality and creativity as you reflect on your own life experience?

9. What themes/ topics/concerns emerge for you regarding spirituality and creativity in light of your ministry?

10. If you have further comments or suggestions or information that maybe helpful for us in working with you in this course, please note them here.

Please return the completed Questionnaire

by **Friday, March 28, 2014**

to **Alexandra Kovats, csjp, Ph.D.**

by e-mail to cosmicdancer@comcast.net. Thank You!

Blessings on your creative becoming!