

Psychology of Creativity and Art

Last Updated: Fri, 01/02/2026

Course prefix: PSYC

Course number: 2280

Section: A

CRN (you may add up to five):

35575

Instructor First Name: Paul

Instructor Last Name: Verhaeghen

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

This course is meant to provide an overview of what 'scientific' psychology can tell us about the creative person, the creative process, and the creative product. This includes psychological theories of art production and consumption; the psychology of aesthetics; psychological correlates of creative and artistic behavior.

Course learning outcomes:

The main goal is to get students thinking, critically, about the creative process in general and their own creativity in particular, as well as provide them with main theories and findings concerning the psychology of aesthetics and creativity.

Required course materials:

None.

Grading policy:

Evaluation of course performance is based on (a) **three examinations** (75% of grade), and (b) a set of **class diaries** (25% of grade).

The traditional dividing line of 90/80/70/60 for the A/B/C/D range of grades will be used. The instructor reserves the right to alter criteria if necessary (popularly known as 'grading on the curve'), with the restriction that alterations will always be to the advantage of the students.

Attendance policy:

There is no attendance policy.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion