

HUM-395

**Building Blocks of Creativity I**

Abu-Akel Ahmad

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Humanities and Social Sciences	MA1	Obl.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	During the semester
Workload	90h
Weeks	14
<b>Hours</b>	<b>3 weekly</b>
Courses	2 weekly
Project	1 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	<b>60</b>

**Remark**

Une seule inscription à un cours SHS+MGT autorisée. En cas d'inscriptions multiples elles seront toutes supprimées sans notification.

**Summary**

Creativity is a highly valued human capacity, and is a catalyst of innovation. Understanding its mechanisms and how it can be enhanced has occupied both researchers and practitioners, and is an active area of research.

**Content**

The course will cover content on the psychology of creativity through which students will acquire background in and understanding of the following main themes and topics:

1. What is creativity and how is it defined by psychologists?
2. What are types of creativity? Here we will focus on the "four c" model of creativity
3. What are the building blocks of creativity and specifically what mechanisms are involved in the creative thinking process? Here, the course will introduce and discuss concepts such as convergent thinking, divergent thinking, and paradoxical thinking and their importance in tackling challenges and solving problems.
4. What creative mechanisms are involved in the arts and the sciences?
5. What does it take to be creative? Here, the course will cover content related to:
  - The traits and qualities creative people tend to possess, and specifically the role of personality, intelligence, and discipline in the expression of one's creative potential.
  - The effect of context and context adaptation on the expression of one's creative potential.
  - Individual versus group creativity. Are groups more creative than individuals?
  - Available tools that can be leveraged to augment one's own creative potential.

**Keywords**

Creativity; Convergent Thinking; Divergent Thinking; Individual Creativity; Group Creativity; Originality; Personality; Innovation

**POLY-perspective :**

- interdisciplinary perspective
- creative perspective

<https://www.epfl.ch/schools/cdh/cdhs-vision/>

**Learning Prerequisites**

**Required courses**

None

**Recommended courses**

None

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Assess / Evaluate problems and challenges from different perspectives
- Apply different thinking strategies in different contexts
- Optimize problem-solving skills in a group setting

**Transversal skills**

- Assess progress against the plan, and adapt the plan as appropriate.
- Assess one's own level of skill acquisition, and plan their on-going learning goals.
- Set objectives and design an action plan to reach those objectives.
- Manage priorities.
- Write a scientific or technical report.

**Teaching methods**

The teaching will consist of lectures and in-class discussions and challenge exercises.

**Expected student activities**

Students are expected to attend lectures, participate in the in-class discussions and challenge exercises.

**Assessment methods**

A short paper in which the student will discuss ways to enhance creativity

**Supervision**

Office hours	No
Assistants	No
Forum	No
Others	If students have questions, they can arrange time to meet with professor.

**Resources****Bibliography**

A reading list will be provided as part of the syllabus.