This course explores key psychological processes involved in creating and experiencing art, with emphasis on enriching life through these processes. Sample topics include interrelations among art-related motivation, cognition, and emotion; psychological aids to artistic creativity and to art appreciation; and psychological processes common in creating and experiencing art that may be beneficial in other areas of life. All forms of art are fair game for consideration, and participants focus on issues of special interest to them.

Schedule:

May 23  
Introductions (and start on list of key questions/interests)

May 25  
“Art/non-art” exercise + Initial Explorations (Read Invented Worlds--Intro, Epilogue, Chpts. 1, 2, 12, 13; compose a provocative discussion question for each of these [six questions total])

June 1  
Sampling Art Modes (Read Invented Worlds--Parts 2, 3, 4; choose one to present [skim other two])

June 6 & 8  
The Art Experience (Initiate Life-as-Art Exercise and also develop project possibilities; read a book from List #1)

June 13 & 15  
Creativity Processes (Read a book from List #2; continue Life-as-Art Exercise + development of project)

June 20 & 22  
Socio-cultural Context (Read a book from List #3; continue with "Life-as-Art" and be sure Project is under way in earnest!)

June 27 & 29  
Project Presentations

+  
Grand wrap-up and celebration

PRIMARY PRODUCTS: Weekly typed Self-Celebrations (what you did for the course) & Insight Lists (what you discovered), plus a Project presentation/report at the end of the course.

MY USUAL GRADING CRITERIA: Your involvement with the course themes, ideas, and processes and the depth and sophistication of your insights and project. {Note on attendance: Participation in class is essential to the course. If you ever must miss a class, please leave a message in advance (phone or e-mail) and interview at least two class members to find out specifics of what you missed (to list and build on in your insight list for that period).}
READINGS FOR PSYCH 235: PSYCHOLOGY OF ART -- Summer 2011

Introductory text: INVENTED WORLDS -- Ellen Winner

List #1 (Experiencing Life as Art; choose one or nominate an alternative) --

THE CREATIVE JOURNAL – Lucia Capacchione
FREE PLAY -- Stephen Nachmanovitch
ON BECOMING AN ARTIST – Ellen Langer
PLAYFUL PERCEPTION -- Herbert Leff (library) or
TURNING LEARNING INSIDE OUT – Herbert Leff & Ann Nevin (library)
THE AWAKENED EYE -- Ross Parmenter (library)
MUSIC, THE BRAIN, AND ECSTASY – Robert Jourdain
THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON MUSIC – Daniel Levitin

List #2 (Creativity; choose one or nominate an alternative) --

CREATIVITY IN CONTEXT -- Teresa Amabile
CREATIVITY -- Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi
MINDFULNESS – Ellen Langer
EXPERIENCE, ENVIRONMENT, AND HUMAN POTENTIALS (pp. 77-190) –
Herbert Leff (library)
AFFECT, CREATIVE EXPERIENCE, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT -- S. Russ

List #3 (Sociocultural Context; choose one or nominate an alternative) -

THE RE-ENCHANTMENT OF ART -- Suzi Gablik
WHAT IS ART FOR? -- Ellen Dissanayake
FINDING THE MUSE -- Mark Freeman (library)
ART WORLDS -- Howard Becker
“EEHP” –chs. 4-7 – yours truly (library)

Recommended Additional Reading for Art Therapy Enthusiasts:
ART THERAPY: AN INTRODUCTION -- Judith Rubin
A LIFE IN THE ARTS – Eric Maisel