This course explores key psychological processes involved in creating and experiencing art. 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:

Jan. 19

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

Jan. 26

Initial Explorations (Read Invented Worlds-- Intro, Epilogue, Chpts. 1, 2, 12, 13; compose a provocative discussion question for each of these [six questions total]); also create art & non-art

Feb. 2

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

Feb. 4 & 11

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

Feb. 18 & 25

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

Mar. 2 & 9

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

Mar. 16-April 6

Special Activities and Presentations (readings & activities to be determined with the class)

April 13-27

Project Activities and Presentations

May 4

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 -- Spring 2005

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

PLAYFUL PERCEPTION -- Herbert Leff (library reserve: Psych 233/234) or TURNING LEARNING INSIDE OUT – Herbert Leff & Ann Nevin

THE AWAKENED EYE – Ross Parmenter (library reserve: Psych 233/234)

MUSIC, THE BRAIN, AND ECSTASY – Robert Jourdain

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 reserve: Psych 233/234)

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 reserve)

ART WORLDS -- Howard Becker

A LIFE IN THE ARTS – Eric Maisel

Recommended Additional Reading for Art Therapy Enthusiasts:

ART THERAPY: AN INTRODUCTION -- Judith Rubin