

FRESHMAN SEMINAR • 34612R  
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF INSPIRATION  
FALL 2011

FACULTY NAME	STACIE CHAIKEN
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OFFICE HOURS

*5 to 6pm Mondays & Wednesdays, and by appointment. Please call or email to schedule, or let me know that you are coming.*

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is an investigation of creative process. It invites you to experience a series of passionate people, visit the back rooms of museums, eat some exotic treats, in search of what piques your own curiosity, what inspires you to create. From the inspiration you derive from our roamings, you will create something new.

AIM

The aim of the course is to enable you to:

Acquire an expansive sense of what is possible here at USC, in the campus vicinity, and in the world within and outside your profession of choice.

Participate as a critical and creative agent in the development of your own curiosity about the world around you.

Develop a secure foundation for further enquiry and expansion of your realm, both personally and professionally.

CONTENT

You will participate in a series of scheduled and self-selected events and adventures, to each of which you will make a deeply personal response, in either the prescribed medium, or a medium you choose yourself. I encourage you to try new modes of expression, as well as seeking to strengthen those in which you already have skill.

LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

You will engage in a series of weekly scheduled and/or self-directed adventures with and/or without the group, to which you will create a response.

You will create a **thoughtful response in a medium of your choice to the adventures we engage in** both in and out of the classroom, and post chronicle your responses online on our designated site.

## the archaeology of inspiration

You will create a final project, inspired in some way by your experience in this course, which will be presented to the USC community in a weekend installation.

## CLASS MEETINGS

Tuesdays, from 2 to 3:50pm, from August 23 to October 25 (see schedule)

We will be traveling away from our homeroom of GFS210 for many class sessions, so please make sure you have my cell phone number and that of at least one of your classmates, in case you are late or unable to attend class.

Please check Blackboard for weekly meeting places, as they will change. We will have one weekend day meeting for the exhibit final projects.

## UNIT VALUE

2 Units

## SUGGESTED READINGS

Deveare-Smirh, A.	<i>Letters to a Young Artist</i>	New York	Anchor	2006
Tharp, Twyla	<i>The Creative Habit</i>	New York	Simon & Schuster	2003
Rilke, Rainer Maria	<i>Letters to a Young Poet</i>			

A dedicated notebook (loose-leaf may be the most practical).

## GRADING GUIDELINES AND MODES OF ASSESSMENT

The Freshman Seminar program is offered on a Pass/No Pass basis. In order for you to pass, you must **attend and participate actively in and respond to all class sessions and required out-of-class events and fulfill all assignments, and create a final project.** In the event of serious illness or family emergency, please consult with me and we will find a way for you to make up the work you missed.

These are principles that are important to me:

1. Active participation in and full preparation for all classes.
2. Willingness to take 'informed' risks. Invention.
3. Personal growth (e.g. progress made, value-added).
4. Support for and sensitivity to your peer group.

## PLEASE BE ON TIME

In addition, we will be traveling away from our homeroom, and have limited time for these adventures. **If you know you are going to be late—or absent—you are responsible for telling me in advance, by email, if you know in advance, or by mobile phone, at the last minute.** We will make arrangements for you to catch up with the class, should we leave without you.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC policies on academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Please familiarize yourself with the guidelines found in the current SCampus ([www.usc.edu/dept/publications/scampus](http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/scampus)).

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DISABILITY SERVICES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 am to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is 213-740-0776.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

We will make **weekly excursions or attend weekly events**, to which I will invite you to respond in your choice of medium. You are always welcome to choose your own mode of response, but I encourage you to try new things.

You will create a **final project**, inspired in some way by what you have experienced in this course.

**THIS COURSE IS 10 WEEKS LONG. OUR LAST CLASS MEETING IS OCTOBER 25.  
THERE IS ONE WEEKEND MEETING, OUR FINAL EXHIBIT, WHICH IS TENTATIVELY  
SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 22.**

***THERE IS NO NO FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THIS COURSE***

KEY DATES

<b>Friday, September 9</b>	Last day to register and add classes; Last date to register or withdraw without a grade of "W" ; Last day to change enrollment option to P/NP or Audit
<b>Friday, November 11</b>	Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W":

**FRESHMAN SEMINAR • 34602R  
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SPRING 2010**

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This Syllabus is a contract between me, the Instructor, representing the University, and you, the Student. It defines what I am committed to provide you, and outlines what is being asked of you. Please read the Syllabus carefully, then sign this page and return it to me. Thanks.

your name and signature

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date

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e-mail address

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phone(s)

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What is the best way to reach you?

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Anything else you want me to know?

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