

This course is part of the new Creative Community Building emphasis within the Bachelor of General Studies degree, offered at the University of Connecticut.

Find more at:

[www.CreativeCommunityBuilding.org](http://www.CreativeCommunityBuilding.org)

"Imagination is the creative task of making symbols, joining things together in such a way that they throw new light on each other and on everything around them. The imagination is a discovering faculty, a faculty for seeing relationships, for seeing meanings that are special and even quite new. The imagination is something which enables us to discover unique present meaning in a given moment of our life."

THOMAS MERTON

### About the Instructors:

**Steven Dahlberg** heads the International Centre for Creativity and Imagination, which is dedicated to applying creativity to improve the well-being of individuals, organizations and communities. He is also the associate director of the Creative Community Building Program at the University of Connecticut. He regularly contributes about creativity topics to various media.

**Phoebe Godfrey, Ph.D.**, is a University of Connecticut Assistant Professor in Residence in Sociology. She is co-chair of the Connecticut Greens, a member of the Imagine Willimantic Communniversity, and a member of Wrench in the Works. She's also an artist and a political activist.

University of Connecticut

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[www.CreativeCommunityBuilding.org](http://www.CreativeCommunityBuilding.org)

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# CREATIVITY + SOCIAL CHANGE

with **Steven Dahlberg** and **Phoebe Godfrey**

A NEW 3-CREDIT COURSE  
7 WEEKS ... FALL 2008

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

September 9 - October 23, 2008

"It is necessary to the very existence of the world, that you must ... do what has never been done before, or even thought before. You must be prepared to do what has to be done. And you must have a **restless imagination** to do that."

**BROTHER LOUIS DETHOMASIS**  
CHANCELLOR AND FORMER COLLEGE PRESIDENT



University of Connecticut

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## GS 3088 – Variable Topics: Creativity and Social Change

This course recognizes and practices the art of creative and critical thinking for the progressive development of both individuals and society. Radical changes in the transition to a global society require that individuals are capable of fully developing and expressing their creativity and that they have an in-depth understanding of the ways in which their communities and society function.

The emphasis in this course will be on exploring our creativity and understanding how our perceptions of ourselves and society not only construct social problems, but also can be re-imagined to invent new solutions.

You will learn strategies for unleashing and harnessing your own creativity, as well as ways of applying your creative thinking talents to the reshaping and reinventing of society.

The course design features a learning experience balanced between theoretical understanding of the disciplines of creativity and sociology, and their applications in the real world. An open-ended framework and climate for group exchange of ideas will encourage empathy and holistic learning through everyone's direct involvement.

This course will be a microcosm of the concepts being

explored. Therefore, part of the course will be building the course around your interests and goals. The course topics (right) will be oscillate between theory and application, balancing both critical and creative thinking. Several guest presenters will help bridge concepts and practice, creativity and social change. Group learning experiences will provide regular, interactive learning opportunities.

Since the creative process necessarily includes an element of spontaneity and surprise, you are invited to feel comfortable with a measure of ambiguity in the predicted topics and timing. In addition to a tolerance for ambiguity, other characteristics of the creative personality that we will explore include: curiosity, an inclination for risk-taking, imagination, energy and drive, a spirit of independence, sensitivity, awareness, and a sense of humor.

### The Course

**Complete this full-semester, 3-credit undergraduate course in just seven weeks!** This course (GS 3088; section 90) is offered through the Center for Continuing Studies at the University of Connecticut. Non-degree students also may register for this course on a space-available basis for personal/professional development.

**To register for this course, contact Joann Augustyn:**

860-486-0460 – j.augustyn@uconn.edu

**For information about the course:**

860-450-1287 – info@creativecommunitybuilding.org

### The Details

**Where:** Bishop Center  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, Connecticut

**When:** **NOTE SPECIAL 7-WEEK SCHEDULE**  
September 9  
to October 23, 2008  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Usual tuition rates apply  
3 undergraduate credits  
(Non-degree students: Approx. \$1216)

## Learning Objectives

This course can help you to:

- Identify and recognize the relationship between your creative strengths and your purpose.
- Recognize and integrate the role of personal creativity in creative community building.
- Recognize the basic functioning of society as a complex system of unequal social relations, based on collective perceptions and constructions of reality.
- Learn and apply specific creative thinking tools and strategies – including the Applied Creative Thinking and Problem Solving Process – which can be applied individually, in organizations and in society.
- Explore the social context of creativity – including the role and impact of society on creativity; the social imagination of creative communities; how the shaping of society is a creative process; and how the creative process is hindered and encouraged by society.
- Explore a particular aspect of creativity (person, process, outcome and/or climate) and its relationship to society.
- Understand the value and potential impact of this class in your life, work and community.

### Course Topics

#### IMAGINE ... INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Basic concepts and ideas about the discipline of creativity, the functioning of society and the process of social change – from the perspectives of personal creativity, the self in society, and the interconnections between self-transformation and social change.

#### CONNECT ... INTEGRATION OF CREATIVITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Complementary topics that enhance the interdisciplinary nature of social creativity including: organizations and communities, the arts, play and humor, types of learning, body-mind balance, and social activism.

#### ENGAGE ... EXPANSION OF CREATIVITY IN SOCIETY

Applying your imagination beyond yourself to communities, to society and to the world including: enhancing individual and collective empathy and creativity, understanding the concept of Social Sculpture, and exploring the ethics of creativity and the creativity of ethics in society.