IDS325 Creative Problem Solving
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This isn’t a math class. It’s a design thinking class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course presents a systematic approach to design thinking and problem solving, a way of traveling rather than a map of the territory. The course examines the process of creating novel, adaptive solutions to complex problems. This approach functions as a complement to the problem-clarifying action of critical thinking. Students will explore methods of analyzing and empathizing with complex problems, then respond to the clarified problems with techniques that allow and provoke original, inventive solutions. Development through prototyping and empathic discussion is emphasized. Students will obtain skills in responding, individually and in groups, to problems that come without ready answers.

TEXT: reading assignments from web and handouts

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Through critical and creative attention to materials, discussion, and practice each student will learn to:
1. Clarify problems using empathy, prototyping and redefinition.
2. Employ individual and group techniques to provoke and stimulate original ideas.
3. Empathetically and objectively examine potential solutions for application
4. Increase confidence in approaching problems that come without pre-existing solutions.

LEARNING STRATEGIES INCLUDE:
- Brief lecture
- Group problem solving
- Prototyping
- Self-awareness work toward individual problem solving styles
- Social-awareness work toward clients, and group problem solving styles
- Final group project
- Brief final essay
- Small individual and group projects
- Laughing: ah hah often leads to ha, ha, ha.

EVALUATION IS BASED ON
- Application of objectives in projects

Final project is worth 70% of grade
Small projects are worth 15% of grade
Final essay is worth 15% of grade.

Attendance counts. First absence costs 3 points out of 100. Second costs 7. Third costs all.