

Syllabus: Brains of Genius

(Specific readings will be posted for each class, starting 30 May)

FORMAT: The class will meet live Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:00 a.m. until 12:15p.m. Eastern U.S. Time. Attendance is mandatory at all sessions. Students are responsible for their own connectivity.

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

May 30: The Changing Face of the Genius: A History of the Term

June 1: Race, Gender, and the Notion of Genius

Paper 1 assigned: What is Genius?

June 3: What is Genius: IQ or EQ, Nature or Nurture

WEEK 2: LEONARDO AND NEWTON

Paper 1 due: June 6 at 11:00 a.m.

June 6: Leonardo da Vinci and Systemic Thinking

June 8: Leonardo da Vinci and the Enablers of Genius

Paper 2 assigned: Leonardo and Newton and the Nature of Genius

June 10: Isaac Newton: Science and the Moment of insight

WEEK 3: LUCK AND CREATIVITY

Paper 2 due: June 13 at 11:00 a.m.

June 13: Einstein and The Genius of the Age: Was Einstein Lucky?

June 15: Creativity in Poetry and Comedy: Eminem and Robin Williams

June 17: Creativity as Imaged and Imagined by Neuroscience

Paper 3 assigned: What is Creativity and How Does It Happen?

WEEK 4: MOSTLY MOZART

Paper 3 due: June 20 at 11:00 a.m.

June 20: Mozart and the Prodigy

June 22: Mozart and Childlike Thinking

Paper 4 assigned: Mozart and Genius

June 24: Beethoven and van Gogh: Disability and Madness

WEEK 5: GENIUS AND SOCIETY

Paper 4 due: June 27 at 11:00 a.m.

June 27 Disability (Different Ability): Autism, Asperger's and Genius

Paper 5 (final paper) assigned

June 29: The Genius of the Team: Crick, Watson & Franklin and the Double Helix; and The Beatles

July 1: Film and the Notion of Genius: Amadeus, Selma, and The Imitation Game

July 3: 11:50 p.m. Final paper due

MATERIALS & REQUIREMENTS:

Videos with questions will be posted before each class. Readings will be posted (as PDFs or Word documents) with questions before each class. Students are required to submit written answers to questions by 9:00 a.m. Eastern U.S. Time on the morning of each class. The student work product will consist of (and grades will be determined by): 1) answers to preassigned videos and readings, 2) participation in live class discussion, 3) five papers of increasing length (500, 600, 700, 800, 2,400 words).