MUSI S212E Brains of Genius
Summer 2018 Syllabus

(Specific readings will be posted for each class, starting 29 May)

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

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION**

- July 4: Race, Gender, Culture and the Notion of Genius
- Paper 1 assigned: What is Genius?
- July 6: What is Genius: IQ or EQ, Nature or Nurture

**WEEK 2: LEONARDO AND NEWTON**

- Paper 1 due: July 9 11:00 a.m.
- July 9: Leonardo da Vinci and Systemic Thinking
- July 11: Leonardo da Vinci, Steve Jobs, and Combinative Thinking
- Paper 2 assigned: Leonardo and Newton and the Nature of Genius
- July 13: Issac Newton: Science and the Moment of Insight

**WEEK 3: THE CREATIVE MIND**

- Paper 2 due: July 16 at 11:00 a.m.
- July 16: Einstein and the Visual Imagination: Einstein's Brain & Thoughts
- July 18: Freud and the Unconscious; Relaxation; Theories of Creativity
- July 20: Creativity as Imaged and Explained by Neuroscience
- Paper 3 assigned: What is Creativity and How Does It Happen?
WEEK 4: MOSTLY MOZART

- Paper 3 due: July 23 at 11:00 a.m.
- July 23: Mozart and the Prodigy: Is the Prodigy a Genius?
- July 25: More Mozart: Thinking outside the Box and Childlike Thinking
- Paper 4 assigned: Mozart and Genius
- July 27: Beethoven and van Gogh: Disability and Madness

WEEK 5: GENIUS AND SOCIETY

- Paper 4 due: July 30th at 11:00 a.m.
- July 30: The Genius is a Rebel: Andy Warhol and Lady Gaga
- Paper 5 (final paper) assigned
- August 1: The Genius of the Team: Crick, Watson & Franklin and the Double Helix; and The Beatles
- August 3 Film and the Notion of Genius: A Beautiful Mind, A theory of Everything, The Imitation Game, and National Geographic's Genius
- August 5: 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) scores on daily in-class quizzes, 3) participation in live class discussion, 4) five papers of increasing length (500, 600, 700, 800, 2,400 words).