MUSI S212E BRAINS OF GENIUS  
Summer 2019 Syllabus

(Specific readings will be posted for each class, starting June 20)

**FORMAT:** The class will meet live (via Zoom) 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 1: The Changing Face of Genius: A History of the Term

July 3: Whose Genius? Race, Gender, Culture and the Notion of Genius

Paper 1 assigned: What is Genius?

July 5: Nature vs. Nurture: Gift or Hard Work: IQ or Many Q’s

**WEEK 2: LEONARDO AND NEWTON**

Paper 1 Due: July 8 at 11:00 a.m.

July 8: Leonardo da Vinci: Which is Better? Going a Mile Wide or a Mile Deep?

July 10: Leonardo da Vinci and Steve Jobs: Combinative Thinking

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

July 13: Isaac Newton: Science and the Moment of Insight

**WEEK 3: THE CREATIVE MIND**

Paper 2 Due: July 15 at 11:00 a.m.

July 15: Einstein and the Visual Imagination: Einstein’s Brain & Thought Process

July 17: Freud and the Unconscious; Relaxation; Theories of Creativity

July 19: 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 22 at 11:00 a.m.
July 22: Mozart and the Prodigy: Is the Prodigy a Genius?

July 24: More Mozart: Thinking Outside the Box and Childlike Thinking

Paper 4 assigned: Mozart and Genius

July 26: Van Gogh and Frida Kahlo: Disability and Madness; Disability and Perseverance

WEEK 5: GENIUS AND SOCIETY

Paper 4 Due: July 29 at 11:00 a.m.

July 29: Picasso: The Genius as Monster

July 31: Andy Warhol and Lady Gaga: The Genius as Celebrity Rebel

Paper 5 (final paper) assigned

August 2: Genius or Success? Which Do You Want to Be? Genius and the School System

SAT and ACT Gifted Programs Asian Students vs. Harvard

MATERIALS & REQUIREMENTS

Videos with question 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 based on preassigned reading, 3) participation in live class discussion, 4) five papers of increasing length (500, 600, 700, 800, 2,400 words).