The questions we will explore include: What is creativity? Where do original ideas come from? What is the relationship between inspiration and craft? Between medium and message? How do artistic traditions generate new works? How does "academic" training support (or hinder) creativity? What is improvisation? Bricolage? What is the relationship between artistic freedom and artistic discipline? How does reception/criticism affect the creative process(es)? How does economic necessity affect the creative process?

Students will carry out two semester long projects which will form the basis for evaluation:
1) The ethnography of an artist/creator/performer in the community based on site visits and interviews and other fieldwork techniques; and 2) An examination of their own creative processes as they create something: a work of literature, visual art, performance, etc. This inquiry will be informed by selected readings from a variety of disciplines as students tack between what they are engaged with as creators and the thinking they do and others have done about the nature of creativity.

Since the Wright Brothers first flew on Dec. 17, 1903, the technology and uses of aviation have changed quickly and dramatically. Airplanes have had significance in commerce, diplomacy, warfare, recreation and the environment. This course will examine those aspects of aviation through reading, discussion, lectures and field trips. We will cover, in addition, such flying topics as basic aerodynamics, internal combustion, turbine power, navigation, safety and learning to fly. Students will work in groups, and the evaluation will be done primarily through a research paper due at the end of the semester. The instructor is a licensed pilot and airplane owner.

The fundamental premise of this seminar is that poverty and hunger are not inevitable, and can be overcome, but only through a deliberate process of genuine, local, community-centered human development. At a time of unprecedented affluence for some, about two-thirds of our world's population lives in dire poverty, not only in the global South but also in the U.S. A primary objective of this course is to explore issues relating to the causes of increasing poverty--and dependency--as growing numbers of people lose their traditional means of supporting themselves.

Genuine development will be examined in the context of people becoming empowered to meet their individual needs. Such empowerment requires reversing impoverishment, enhancing democracy, making possible a healthy and sustainable balance between population and resources, improving the well-being and status of women, respecting local cultures, sustaining the natural environment, measuring progress in human rather than monetary terms, and understanding and promoting the interests of minorities as well as majorities. Case studies illustrating successes and failures to achieve genuine development--by which is meant increased freedom of choice--will be carefully evaluated.