*Creativity and Creative Expression*

Engineers are supposed to be innovative. To be innovative they need to be creative, they need to think out of the box, see things that others don’t, practice divergent thinking. But how can one become more creative? Isn’t the traditional route to creativity via the visitation of the muses, as in: cloaked in obscurity, myth, and magic? Aren’t we just born creative or not?

This class, which draws on a great deal of empirical research into the science of creativity over the last half century, aims to both break the creativity myth and to help students to become more creative. It is a creative writing class to the extent that students, over the course of the class, will write creatively. But the aim of this is not to produce great literature but to gather insight into the creative process, accumulating practical experience and object lessons bearing on how the findings of creativity science, when understood as part of a creative method, can be integrated into a process-based approach to maximizing creativity that can be translated into other domains that are more relevant to the core tasks of the engineer than writing fictions.

Assignments:

2 short pieces of fiction