FUNDAMENTALS OF CREATIVE STUDIES II

CRN 17462        Creative Studies 3583

Meets: 11 a.m. to 12:15pm  Tues and Thursday
In LA 219.

Taught by Christopher F. Givan

Professor’s Office: 101F LA
Office hrs. : Monday, Tues, Wed, and Thurs 7pm to 8pm
Thursday :  9:45 a.m. to 10: 45  a.m .

And by appointment. Generally, Prof. Givan is in his office before
every class and can be visited then too.

e-mail: kitgivan@gmail.com Use this e-mail address rather than the UCO address
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Christopher F. Givan

Givan is a professor in the English Dept. at UCO .He earned a B.A. from Yale and
a Ph.D. from Stanford.. Givan has taught at UCO since 1986. Before coming to UCO, he
taught at UC Santa Barbara, Univ of Bucharest, Romania, University of Puerto
Rico (Mayaguez, then Rio Piedras) Univ of California, Los Angeles; he was Dean of
Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland, and then Academic Dean of The American
College of Switzerland, Leysin, Switzerland. Then he moved to Eastern New Mexico
State University in Portales, N M. then he became Dean of Morse College at Yale,
and finally was spirited to Edmond, to serve for 7 yrs as Chair of the Dept. of
Creative Studies.

He was awarded three Fulbright lectureships to teach American literature abroad:

Bucharest, Romania (76-78); Hong Kong (92-93); and more recently at the
University of Antananarivo, Madagascar (2000-01).

Givan’s favorite sentence about writing Robert Frost’s comment : “No surprise for
the writer, no surprise for the reader.” He also likes William Blake’s line: “The road
of excess leads to the palace of wisdom.”

Attendance policy:  If you miss more than 6 classes, you cannot pass the class. If you
miss 5 classes, your grade will most likely be lowered a full letter grade. If you miss four
your grade may be lowered a half letter grade.

Coming late to class, or leaving early, or having your cell phone go off during class
will count as a third of an absence. Not having the book assigned for that particular
class, will count as a third of an absence. But, it is always better to come to a class than
to miss one. Valuable tip. Do not use your allowed absences except when you really
need them. I.e. your car may break down, , or there may be a family emergency or you may become ill. These are the times to use your allowed absences.

Required Texts:
1. PLAYS IN ONE ACT ed. Halpern, Daniel
2. Koch, Kenneth, SLEEPING ON THE WING
3. BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES, ed Brooks, Geraldine
4. Squires, Constance ALONG THE WATCH TOWER

Goals of the course: to study four literary forms or genres and to assist the student in recognizing the nature of each form and to gain confidence in practicing each form: the four genres are:
1. the short story
2. the one act play
3. the novel
4. the short poem. The student will also have the opportunity to practice comment honestly but positively on other student work.

Required assignments with points
1. extra credit if typed up: in class scene 5pts
2. fictional scene 5pts
3. paragraph on Bissell’s story 5pts
4. original story 10pts
5. typed para on each student short story 1 pt each
6. Appraisal of plays, A B C 5pts
7. One act play 15pts
8. extra credit review of FAWLTY TOWERS 5pts
9. commentary on one episode in Squires’ novel 5pts
10. Review of ALONG THE WATCH TOWER 10 pts
11. Original poem 5pts
12. Second original poem or commentary on a poem 5pts
13. third original poem 5pts
14. extra credit on more FAWLTY TOWERS 5pts
15. Final Project 15pts
16. your paragraph on each student’s final project. 1pt each

Points available 125 pts. Plus ten pts extra credit.
Please note, you must hand in all assignments in order to pass the class. Work handed in late may lose half its value for each class day late.
Grade equivalency in terms of points

100-125 pts = A
85-100 = B
70-84 = C
60-69 = D
Below 60 = F
Schedule of Meetings and Assignments

AUGUST

Thursday 23 Aug Bring back the Carver story, “Cathedral”
Thurs 30 In BEST AMERICAN, read Goodman, Allegra “La Vita Nuova,” in class lets add a scene not in this story; for instance, what if the troubled heroine met a stranger in a coffee shop. What could happen? Be prepared in class to write a scene about this heroine.

Tues 4 SEPTEMBER Hand in a fictional scene (1-3 pages) in which you create a vivid scene, a character who is stressed or conflicted about something, and some dialogue. There does not, and perhaps should not be a resolution to the conflict or the source of the stress since this is merely to a fragment or a scene within a potential unwritten or unfinished short story. Bring copies for us all. Read In Best American, Ricardo Nuila, p 231 “Dog Bites.”

Thurs 6 Bring back any student scenes we did not discuss with your comments on them.
Tues 11 September Tom Bissell, p32, “A Bridge Under Water.” Write one typed paragraph reacting to this story. Be sure to read Bissell’s comments on it at the back of the anthology.
Thurs 13 Hand in your original short story. It needs to have the 3 p s, a title, and be about 6-12 pages long. Remember: it needs to have correct formatting of paragraphs and correct punctuation of dialogue. Appeal to the five senses is nearly always a way to involve the reader. Bring copies for us all.
Tues. 18. Bring back student short stories with one paragraph of typed comments reacting to the story. Bring a copy for the student and a copy for the teacher.
Thurs 20 Writing the One Act Play. For this class, read in PLAYS IN ONE ACT, John Guare, p115, “Four Baboons Adoring the Sun,” and A.R. Gurney, Jr. p141 “The Problem,”

Tues. 25 Sept. from PLAYS IN ONE ACT, read Richard Ford, p75 “American Tropical,”; Jonathan Reynolds, p401,”Lines Composed A few Miles Above Tintern Abbey, Part II,” and Garrison Keillor, p242,”Prodigal Son,” ; Hand in a typed page in which you discuss all three plays; indicate which in your view is an A, B or C. i.e. rank them and explain your choices.
Thursday 27 Sept. In the drama anthology, read “Bay at Nice,” p 153 by David Hare.

Tues 2 OCTOBER Hand in your own one act play. Could be as short as 8 pages or as long as 17 pages. Up to you. Bring copies for us all. We will read all the plays in class.
Provide, please, enough copies for the actors in your play, and yourself, and the teacher to have a script in hand.

Tues 9 We will see two episodes of JOHN CLEESE in FAWLTY TOWERS.

**Thurs 11 No Class, as Fall break begins today.**

**Tuesday 16 October.** For extra credit, hand in 1-2 typed review of the two Cleese episodes. Read part One, i.e. first 10 chapters up to page 131 of Squires, ALONG THE WATCH TOWER. Choose one episode and write a 1-2 typed commentary on it. Thurs 18 October in ALONG THE WATCH TOWER, read up to page 217, i.e. through chapter 20.

Tues. 23 October ALONG THE WATCH TOWER, conclude your reading of this novel. Bring in a review or reaction to the book. About 1-2 pages typed. Use very specific examples to illustrate your points. You might, to strengthen your own review, look at 2 or 3 reviews on line. This novel, by the way, won the Oklahoma Book Award for 2011.

Thurs 25 October, Dr Constance Squires who teaches at UCO in the English dept. will visit the class to answer questions about her novel and, if you wish, to sign your copies. Please come with at least two written questions you would like to ask her.

**Tues 30 Writing the short poem**. Read carefully both the introduction and the note to teachers at the end of SLEEPING ON THE WING. Read the sections on W.C. Williams, p137; on Emily Dickinson, p 39

Thurs 1 NOVEMBER Read the section on Ezra Pound, 160. Also read the section on e e cummings page 197.

Nov 6 Tues. For this class, in SLEEPING ON THE WING choose a poet from any where in the anthology which is not on our syllabus to be discussed and write a poem following either the writing prompt connected to that poet, or responding to a particular poem by that poet. **Bring copies for us all of your poem.** Indicate the name of the poet, and if you choose a particular poem to respond to it, name it, and give us page number also.

Thurs 8 November Bring back any undiscussed student poems with your comments on them. Read the sections on Gertrude Stein, p 82. T.S. Eliot, p169 and Yeats p 71.

Choose one of the poems written by these three poets. Write either a commentary on the poem or a poem responding to a particular poem. Indicate which poem on which page you are responding to. Bring copies for us all if you wish.

**Thurs 8 Read Gary Snyder page 268.** Write either a commentary, one page typed, on of the poems by Eliot or Snyder or write another original poem. Bring copies if you wish.

Tues 13 More workshopping of your poems.
Thurs 15 TBA. Possible visit by a poet.
Tues 20 See another episode of FAWLTY TOWERS
Thanksgiving break begins Wed. November 21

Tues. 27 If you wish, bring in a one page review of FAWLTY TOWERS for extra credit.

HERE,

**Your final project is due.** It needs to be an original work in one of the four genres or forms studied; you may write more poems (do about four, total lines should be at least 50); or write another short story (length should be about 7-12 pages, typed double spaced. Stories must have a title and be correctly formatted in terms of punctuation, indenting for a new speaker, indenting for a new paragraph etc.) 3. the first chapter of a novel (about 10 pages); or 4. a short one act play (length: about 12-18 pages. More if you wish.) **You need to bring in enough copies for us all. We will workshopping your final project in the reverse alphabetical order. You will need to write one paragraph, or a page if you wish, of typed comments on each fellow student’s work; give one copy of your comments to the student and one to the teacher. Each of your commentaries will receive a grade.**

Thurs 29 Discussing your final project
Tues. 4 DECEMBER Your final project is discussed
Thurs 6 Our last class. This meeting and your final project as well as your attendance in the last four classes will count as our final exam. Do not miss these last four classes!

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TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES: The University of Central Oklahoma is committed to transformative education through active teaching-learning interchange, scholarly and creative pursuits, leadership, healthy lifestyles, and service to others. This course addresses five of the learning outcomes. The peer evaluation processed is central as students practice reacting and helping to revise each other’s work; this is also a chance for students to be of service to others. There is clearly a chance to improve creative abilities as well as to practice some research techniques through the gathering of reviews and criticism of some poets. Finally, as we reach into American and European literature, we are extending our global awareness. The country chosen to focus on this yr at UCO is England. Indeed, we will be visited by an English novelist, poet, dramatist and journalist, Professor Alan Smith of Northampton University, U.K.