



Peer Review of: Dr. Jennifer Groman

Date: 7 January 2020

Course: Honors Interdisciplinary Seminar (Hon 390) Reviewed by: Jeffrey D. Weidenhamer

I had the pleasure of sitting in on Professor Jennifer Groman's four-week session on Creativity Theory during the Fall 2019 semester.

Professor Groman introduced students to Trustees' Professor Emeritus Jane Piirto's theory of creativity through Piirto's text *Understanding Creativity*. Dr. Groman was enthusiastic in her discussion of the material, well-organized, paid close attention to what students were saying during class conversations, and drew students into a serious engagement with the material through insightful questions and her enthusiasm for the topic.

Professor Groman engaged students in the material through a number of appropriately creative assignments and in-class activities, from having students use glue sticks and construction paper to imagine their creativity monster that keeps them from being creative to having students select an individual to do a biographical sketch on in light of Piirto's creativity theory. The choices ranged from Louis Armstrong to Frank Lloyd Wright to Oscar Wilde to Marie Curie, and the student presentations were excellent.

As Honors Director I see the student evaluations for this course, and the majority of students ranking Professor Groman's contribution to the course rated her as "excellent" for characteristics such as course organization, the instructor's enthusiasm and use of examples and illustrations, and the amount learned in the course. Having sat in on the class, I agree with this assessment.

One student commented, "This section of the course forced me to think outside of the box when it comes to learning, which was definitely intellectually stimulating." From my perspective as Honors Director, this is the type of intellectual challenge that we seek to promote in this interdisciplinary seminar. Dr. Groman has made a significant contribution to the Honors Program at Ashland University through her efforts in Honors 390.

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