ENGLISH 251A/AX  (05)

The Practice and Theory of Criticism

Fall 1990

10:30 MWF in AL 212
Instructor:  W.R. Martin
For Consultations: Office Hours - 9:30 MWF, room to be announced
Home Telephone:  884-4575

General
This term course will be devoted to the appreciation of
poetry, an outline of a few methods of narrative, and the
understanding of some literary terms. I want you to gain
confidence and to learn to exercise your own critical
skills, so the method in class will generally be that of
question and discussion.

Texts
The Norton Introduction to Poetry, ed. J. Paul Hunter, 3rd
edition.
A Handbook to Literature, C. Hugh Holman and William Harmon,

Assignments and Grades
1.
There will be about 7 assignments written in class or at
home on poems or passages virtually unseen. Only the best
6 assignments written by a student will be taken into
account, making up about 66% of the final grade.

2.
Each member of the class is invited to team up with one or
two others to choose a poem and to lead the class
discussion of it. (The team must get my approval of the
poem they choose and are urged to come and discuss it with
me before they present it.) As there will not be enough
sessions available to accommodate all the members of the
class in this project, those who don't get the opportunity
to engage in a class presentation will write an extra
assignment--longer than those referred to in the first
paragraph--at the end of term, making up about 33% of the
final grade.

3.
1) A student's final grade may be raised because of
helpful or interesting participation in class discussion,
but not lowered because of silence.
2) If a student's work has shown clear improvement during
the term, the final grade will not be arrived at as a
strict arithmetical average but will reflect the
improvement.