COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

Purpose of Course: English 251 is a course which is designed to introduce students to the theory and methodology behind the formal study of English literature. In other words, it is the core course in approaching English studies as a discipline.

In English 251A, we will concentrate on a close reading of texts, a type of close reading which is sometimes called the "New Critical" approach or the "Formalist" approach. It is also called "Analytical Criticism" and parallels what in French studies is called "Explication de texte." The object of the course is to help you become a better, more confident reader on your own. We will concentrate on the literary text itself, not on what critics tell us about the text or what they tell us we should think about the text. We will try to determine just what can and cannot be said about any particular text and to what extent a text can be read on its own. At the same time, we will look at some of the assumptions behind this approach.

This is not a lecture course. Students are expected to come to class regularly, to have read the material assigned and thought about it, and to be prepared to discuss and even argue points.

In addition, in English 251A students are expected, by developing their understanding of critical terminology and critical concepts, to increase their critical vocabulary. In English 251A, we will concentrate on lyrical and narrative poetry and short narrative fictional prose.

Texts
Laurence Perrine, Sound and Sense, 7th ed. (Harcourt Brace).
Rudy Wiebe, ed., The Story-Makers (Gage).

[Note: In Sound and Sense, we will read the entire text section of the book. In The Story-Makers, we will read approximately 15 stories.]

Requirements
1) 3 short essays (4 to 8 pages each) on assigned topics, 2 on poetry and 1 on prose; essays worth 20% each
2) 1 final exam in regular exam period on terminology and a sight analysis; worth 20%
3) class participation; seminars; written exercises: 20%

Office - Room and Hours
HH 246, ext. 2124
Office Hours: 11:30 to 12:30 Tuesday & Thursday
Other hours by chance or by appointment.
English 251A Syllabus

September 9  INTRODUCTION:
    Course requirements, syllabus and assignments
    MENU, Watstar, course accounts, tutorials & help
    Learning -- objectives and methods
    Program & department structures: Co-op

September 16  ANALYTIC CRITICISM
    Analysis - the four categories
    In-class analysis of "Afterwards"

September 20  ASSIGNMENT 1 -- "Porphyria's Lover"

September 23  CAL TOOLS & LINEAR READING
    Applications of tools to Reading Room samples
    Tutorials: MENU, editing, viewfile, definitions, CAL

September 30  SETTING
    Techniques and categories from "Saturday Sundae"

October 4  ASSIGNMENT 2 -- "The Flea"

October 7  IMAGERY

October 14  THANKSGIVING -- NO CLASS MEETING*

October 21  INTEGRATION OF ANALYSIS:

October 28  Commentary on "The Rape of the Lock"

November 1  ASSIGNMENT 3 -- "The Rape of the Lock"

November 4  FORM

November 11

November 18  ASSIGNMENT 4 -- THE TURN OF THE SCREW [OR OTHELLO]*

November 25  ANALYSIS -- KINDS AND METHODS OF ARGUMENT

December 2  ANALYSIS -- APPLYING MENU TECHNIQUES TO CRITICISM AND
    EXPRESSION -- EVIDENCE AND ARGUMENT INTO WRITING

December --  TUTORIALS ON ANALYSIS AND WRITING TECHNIQUE

    FINAL EXAMINATION -- 3 HOURS, NO AIDS, (WRITTEN!)
    DATE TO BE ESTABLISHED BY REGISTRAR

END OF TERM -- MARKS AVAILABLE DECEMBER 20

[Signature]