ENGLISH 251B

The Practice and Theory of Criticism

(emphasis on fiction, drama, and satire)

Co-op Section

SYLLABUS for SPRING, 1983

Following on English 251A, this term course completes the introduction to close reading of literary texts, focussing on examples of fiction, drama, and satire. The theoretic part of the course is integrated with the applied, being concerned with theories of the genres examined.

The texts for the theoretic part are three prescribed for English 251A (Aristotle, Holman, and Thomas), along with a number of hand-outs. The test at the end of the course will allow for the testing of theories against the practice, and vice versa. As for marks, the test will weight as heavily as one of the critiques.

Examples of the various genres will be approached in this order (and in the texts indicated):
- short stories, in Mark Schorer’s The Story, 2nd ed. (Prentice-Hall)
- tragedy, viz., The Plough and the Stars in Sean O’Casey’s Three Plays (Macmillan)
- comedy, viz., Arms and the Man in Shaw’s Plays Pleasant (Penguin)
- satire, viz., Huxley’s Brave New World (Penguin)

For the writing and submitting of critiques, the class will
form two groups: those with surname initials in the first half of the alphabet will constitute Castor group, and those with surname initials in the second half will populate Pollux group. These two groups will write on parallel topics. On those occasions when only one group has submitted a critique, the members of the other group will be expected, even more than usual, to answer questions and contribute to the analytical discussion of the work being examined.

Critiques are to be submitted to HH 263 by 5:00 p.m. on the following Tuesdays:

1 (a) May 17. Castor’s critique (1000 words) on a short story.
1 (b) May 24. Pollux’s " " " " " "

2. June 7. Both Castor’s and Pollux’s critiques (1500 words) on an aspect of *Heart of Darkness*.

3 (a) June 21. Castor’s critique (1500 words) on tragedy.
3 (b) July 5. Pollux’s " " " comedy.

4 (a) July 19. Pollux’s critique (1500 words) on satire.
4 (b) July 26. Castor’s " " " "

In addition, all students will write