ENGLISH 251B

The Practice and Theory of Criticism
(emphasis on fiction, drama, and satire)

SYLLABUS for SPRING, 1984

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: Kaplan's *Criticism: The Major Statements*, Holman's *Handbook to Literature*, and Thomas's *Fizz Inside*. These will be supplemented with a number of hand-outs. The test at the end of the course will allow for the testing of the 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, after an oral discussion, in the classroom, of analogous works. 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 days:

1 (a) May 15. Castor's critique (1000 words) on a short story.
1 (b) May 22. Pollux's " " " " " "


3 (a) June 19. Castor's critique (1500 words) on tragedy.
3 (b) July 3. Pollux's " " " " comedy.

4 (a) July 7. Pollux's critique (1500 words) on satire.
4 (b) July 19 (Friday). Castor's critique (1500 words) on satire.

In addition, all students will write