ENGLISH 309D

STYLISTICS

Neil Randall
HH 255, Ext. 3397
Office: TR 11-12
Electronic mail: nrandall@watdcs
Course times: MW 1:30-3:00

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Patricia Chittenden and Malcom Kniry, eds., Making Connections Across the Curriculum.
Richard A. Lanham, A Handlist of Rhetorical Terms.
Optional: Bruce Liles, An Introductory Transformational Grammar.

REQUIREMENTS:

Each student will submit three stylistic analyses. The first, due June 6 (1800 words), will compare two texts from Manguel. The second, due July 4 (2000 words), will compare three texts from Kaplan. The third, due August 8 (2500 words), will compare several texts from one section in Chittenden. Requests for extensions will be the subject of intense and unpleasant negotiation.

If possible, please submit all work in electronic form, in MS-DOS (WordPerfect, Word, or ASCII), Macintosh (MacWrite, Word, or ASCII), Amiga (WordPerfect or ASCII), Commodore 64/128 (PaperClip or ASCII), or CMS (as a downloadable unformatted file). Atari ST users can submit assignments as ASCII files (ST disks are readable by MS-DOS systems). Those without computers can obtain CMS or Watstar accounts through the Arts Computing Office.

If you submit assignments on paper, please single-space, use narrow margins, and print/type on both sides. Reading becomes a little uncomfortable, but trees are nice to have.
THE CONTENT OF THE COURSE

Stylistics offers a method of analyzing style. As such, the discipline attempts to eliminate the use of adjectives such as "flowery", "ornate", "plain", "muscular", and "intimate" in discussions of style. To do so, such analyses demand quantification and objectivity, both of which require special analytical skills.

In English 309D, stylistics is a combination of rhetorical and grammatical analysis. The goal is stylistic comparison; i.e., we will set analyses side by side and draw conclusions from the similarities and differences. Therefore, conclusions such as "frequent use of anaphora" or "minimal use of three-element prepositional phrases" will be based on comparisons to texts we have already studied.

The course is divided roughly between lecture and workshop. Mondays will be lecture days, during which we will concentrate on how to conduct rhetorical and grammatical analyses. On Wednesdays, we will conduct stylistic analyses on specific texts from the assigned books. You will be expected to prepare these analyses before coming to class.

SCHEDULE

May: The Oxford Book of Canadian Ghost Stories.

June: Criticism: The Major Statements.

July: Making Connections Across the Curriculum.