**History of Literary Criticism**  
Professor Lima (elima@uoregon.edu)  
Eng 417/CRN 36425  
Office Hours: Tue 3:30-5; F 10-11:30  
Class Time: tr 10-11:20  
Office: 375 PLC  
Classroom: 185 Lillis  
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**Course Description**

We will study the theory of literary criticism through the work of four Central European thinkers of the first half of the twentieth century. Our aim is to understand the literariness of literature, to elaborate the difference between formal description and literary interpretation, and to begin to explicate the relationship between literary structures and historical processes. We will read a small but dense group of theoretical texts and the course will culminate in a detailed reading of a formally complex contemporary novel.

**Required Readings**

The following texts are available at the University of Oregon bookstore:

- Erich Auerbach, *Mimesis*
- Walter Benjamin, *Illuminations*
- Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
- Georg Lukács, *The Theory of the Novel*
- Erwin Panofsky, *Perspective as Symbolic Form*

**Grading**

This is an advanced, upper-division course on literary theory. The readings are difficult, and I have very high expectations of your level of engagement and of your writing abilities. If you do not feel prepared to meet these expectations please consider another course.

- **Attendance and Participation**
  Students must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Punctual, regular attendance is required of all students.  
  20% of the final grade

- **Weekly Short Papers**
  A weekly paper that may be turned in either Tuesday or Thursday that explicates the theoretical reading assigned for that day. Although short—around 400 words and please don’t go much below or too far over—it needs to address a significant aspect of the reading in a clear and precise way. These will be given either a passing or a no passing grade. If all your short papers earn a passing grade you will get an “A” for this assignment. However, three no passing grades will amount to a drop of 2/3 of a letter grade (e.g., an “A” will drop to “B+”) and every no passing paper after that drops the grade by a further 1/3 of a letter grade.  
  50% of the final grade

- **Final Paper**
  The final paper will be an extended and detailed reading of Junot Diaz’ *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* that must incorporate several concepts we have discussed in the theoretical readings. The paper must be 7–8 pages long (around 2100 words), well written, and well argued.  
  30% of the final grade
Other Policies and Requirements

- All papers must be submitted in hard copy only (absolutely no email attachments). If late, the final papers will be dropped by one third of a letter grade (e.g., from B+ to B).
- Students with special needs should notify both the Counselor for Students with Disabilities (Office of Academic Advising and Student Services) and the professor at the beginning of the term.
- The University policy regarding academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced in this class. The penalty for plagiarism is a failing grade in the course.

Schedule

Week One (3/28)
  **Tues:** Introduction  **Thurs:** No Class

Week Two (4/4)
  **Tues:** Panofsky  **Thurs:** Auerbach “Odysseus,” “Fortunata”

Week Three (4/11)
  **Tues:** “Weary Prince,” “Dulcinea”  **Thurs:** “Hotel”

Week Four (4/18)
  **Tues:** “Stocking,” “Epilogue”  **Thurs:** Lukács chapters 1 and 2

Week Five (4/25)
  **Tues:** chapters 3 and 4  **Thurs:** chapter 5

Week Six (5/2)
  **Tues:** Part 2, chapters 1 and 2  **Thurs:** finish Lukács

Week Seven (5/9)
  **Tues:** Benjamin “Translator,” “Storyteller”  **Thurs:** “Epic Theater,” “Work of Art”

Week Eight (5/16)
  **Tues:** “Proust,” “Theses”  **Thurs:** Díaz TEO Chap. 1

Week Nine (5/23)
  **Tues:** Díaz TEO Chap. 3  **Thurs:** Díaz TEO Chap. 4

Week Ten (5/30)
  **Tues:** Díaz finish  **Thurs:** Final discussion

**FINAL PAPER DUE AT MY OFFICE ON TUESDAY JUNE 7 AT NOON. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER WEDNESDAY JUNE 8 AT NOON.**