PHIL 607 ~ Žižek  
MW 1600-1750 (SCH 250C)  
Professor: Peter Warnek (warnek@uoregon.edu)  
Office hours: Thursdays 1330-1530 (and by appointment)

Course Description:  
Seminar treatment of key texts by controversial and provocative Slovenian philosopher, Slavoj Žižek. The course is reading intensive, with the aim of gaining an overview of Žižek’s considerable body of work as a whole. The general concern is threefold: (1) to understand Žižek’s interpretation of the history of philosophical thought; (2) to account for the development of his work since the publication of *The Sublime Object of Ideology* (1989); and (3) to establish an interpretive basis for reading Žižek’s work from out of the methods and claims of that work itself. Special attention will be given to how Žižek’s project situates itself by referring to the thought of French psychoanalyst, Jacques Lacan, and the 19th century philosophical movement initiated by Hegel and Schelling. Consideration will be given to other authors that figure prominently in Žižek’s work, such as Marx and Freud. On occasion it will prove helpful to also consider Žižek’s interpretations of cinema, popular culture and current events.

Required Texts, all by Žižek:  
1. *The Sublime Object of Ideology* (Verso)  
2. *Tarrying with the Negative* (Duke University Press)  
3. *The Indivisible Remainder* (Verso)  

Course Requirements:  
1. The completion of a final paper on an approved topic of research relating to Žižek’s texts.  
2. The submission of a prospectus for this final paper no later than the beginning of the sixth week of the term.  
3. Students will also be responsible for beginning each seminar with a brief review of the topics of discussion of the previous meeting.  
4. Participation in seminar.

Learning Outcomes:  
1. An understanding of the critical philosophical project of the Slovenian philosopher, Slavoj Žižek, beginning with his early work, *The Sublime Object of Ideology*.  
2. An ability to account for how this project relates to other historically significant philosophical movements and paradigms, such as psychoanalysis, German idealism, neo-Marxism and Critical Theory, deconstruction, phenomenology, feminism, deep ecology and Christian theology.

Schedule of Readings:  

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<td><em>The Sublime Object of Ideology</em>, iii-xxxi</td>
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<td>IR, 136-186</td>
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Select Bibliography:


---. *For They Know Not What They Do: Enjoyment as a Political Factor.* Verso, 1991.


---. *The Ticklish Subject: The Absent Centre of Political Ontology.* Verso, 1999.


---. *Did Somebody Say Totalitarianism?: Five Interventions in the (Mis)use of a Notion.* Verso, 2001.


---. *The Fright of Real Tears.* British Film Institute, 2001.


---. *First as Tragedy, Then as Farce.* Verso, 2009.


