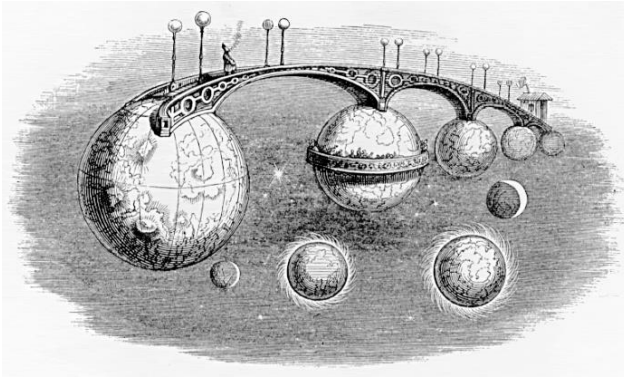


# English 782: Slavoj Zizek

Spring, 2014



Instructor: Dennis Allen

Office: 205 Colson

Office Hours: T: 4:00-5:15 TH: 4:00-5:30 and  
by appointment

Office Phone: 304-293-9702

Home Phone: 304-292-0081

E-mail: [dallen@wvu.edu](mailto:dallen@wvu.edu)

Course Requirements:

Required Texts:

*The Sublime Object of Ideology*

*Enjoy Your Symptom*

*Looking Awry: An Introduction to  
Jacques Lacan through Popular  
Culture*

*The Plague of Fantasies*

*The Parallax View*

*First as Tragedy, Then as Farce*

Astra Taylor, *Zizek!* (film)

Course grades will be based on class discussion (10%) and two written assignments: an 8-10 page (“conference length”) essay applying concepts from the course to a literary or cultural text (40%) and an expanded 20-25 page (“article length”) revision of the essay (50%).

Attendance: Ideally, you will attend all class sessions. If you miss more than one class, you will fail the course. This policy also applies to auditors.

Course purpose: This seminar will survey the work of Slavoj Zizek as a seminal theoretical voice in the continuing development of both Lacanian psychoanalytic interpretation and cultural materialist analyses as well as in the elaboration of connections and disconnections between the two schools of thought. We will also submit the public persona(s) of Zizek himself to a Zizekian critique, attempting to unravel his complex self-presentation as, among other things, political gadfly, intellectual celebrity, and popular culture critic.

Assignments:

January 9: Introduction

Jan. 16: *The Sublime Object of Ideology*, pp. 3-144 (Chapters 1-3)

Jan. 23: *The Sublime Object of Ideology*, pp. 145-263 (Chapters 4-6)

Jan. 30: *Enjoy Your Symptom*, pp. 1-127 (Chapters 1-3)

Feb. 6: *Enjoy Your Symptom*, pp. 129-266 (Chapters 4-6)

Feb. 13: *Looking Awry*, pp. 3-87 (Chapters 1-4)

Feb. 20: Day Off

Feb. 27: *Looking Awry*, pp. 88-169 (Chapters 5-9)

March 6: *The Plague of Fantasies*, pp. 1-160 (Chapters 1-3)

10 page paper due

March 13: Spring Break

March 20: Day Off

March 27: *The Plague of Fantasies*, pp. 161-310 (Chapter 4 and the Appendices)

April 3: *The Parallax View*, reading to be determined

April 10: *The Parallax View*, reading to be determined

April 17: *First as Tragedy* (yup, the whole thing)

April 24: Astra Taylor, *Zizek!* (film) (YouTube: <http://youtu.be/0zjfTQTnte8>)

Robert Boynton, "Enjoy Your Zizek," *Lingua Franca* 8.7 (1998)  
(<http://linguafranca.mirror.theinfo.org/9810/zizek.html>)

May 1: Seminar paper due