philosophy 161. topics in aesthetics. theory of the novel.
spring 2019. a.j. julius.

in this class we’ll read a few novels, some parts of some other novels, gyorgy lukacs’ 1914 book the theory of the novel, and some other reflections on what novels are, what’s good about them when they’re good, and what human life must be like if it’s possible to represent that life in a novel worth reading. you’ll find the following texts (but not the movie “assigned” for 5/31) in .pdf on the ccle website for this course.

       homer, odyssey, 1:336-507
       hegel, from aesthetics, volume 2
       lukacs, theory of the novel, 29-39, 56-69

4/10-12  lukacs, theory of the novel, 40-55, 70-93
       aristotle, poetics, 4-5
       cervantes, don quixote, chapters 1-8
       chekhov, “gusev”
       lydia davis, “the sock”

4/17-19  lukacs, theory of the novel, 97-111
       hegel, phenomenology of spirit, v.b b-c
       kleist, “michael kohlihaas”
       cervantes, don quixote, chapters 9-14

4/24-26  lukacs, theory of the novel, 112-131
       flaubert, sentimental education, parts 1 and 2

5/1-3    benjamin, “the storyteller”
       flaubert, sentimental education, part 3
       leskov, “the steel flea”
       hebel, “unexpected reunion”

5/8-15   gerard genette, narrative discourse, 33-86
       auerbach, mimesis, 541-544
       proust, swann’s way, “overture”
       cesar aira, the linden tree

5/17-22  lukacs, tn, 132-143
       agnes callard, aspiration, chapter 1
       pramoedya ananta toer, this earth of mankind
       christina stead, letty fox: her luck

5/24-29  lukacs, tn, 144-153
       tolstoi, war and peace, volume 2, part 4

5/31-6/7  bakhtin, problems of dostoevskii’s poetics, 5-75
       dostoevskii, the idiot, part 1
       spike lee, do the right thing

the written work for this course is one roughly five-page essay, due may 15, and one of about ten pages, due june 17. you’ll choose a topic for each essay from a list posted at least ten days before the paper’s due. a.j. will hold office hours on wednesdays and fridays from 12:15 to 1:15. on rainy days you’ll find him in dodd 383. when the sun is shining he’ll be outside, in luvalle commons, under the tall pine trees across from jimmy’s (the coffee place.)