Every act of literary interpretation necessarily relies on a number of theoretical assumptions, even if only implicitly. Beginning the process of making some of them explicit, in this course we will study a number of key theoretical approaches to the study of literature, such as Hermeneutics, Reader-Response Criticism, Semiotics, Marxism, Deconstruction, and others. We will also put these theoretical models to work as we develop interpretations of short prose pieces and poems. Due to their conceptual sophistication, the bulk of theoretical reading in this course will be in English; we will predominantly work with The Philosophy of Modern Literary Theory by Peter V. Zima (Athlone Press, 1999). All primary literary texts to be analyzed will be in German. Class discussion will be partially in English, partially in German.

Spring 2011, CRN# 36553

MW 12:00-13:20, Location TBA

Professor Martin Klebes