

G563: German Culture I

Professor William Rasch

TR 2:30-3:45; BH011. Film showings W 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.; BH 317.

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Political Violence

Purpose: In Max Weber's famous words: "Für die Politik ist das entscheidende Mittel: die Gewaltsamkeit." The aim of this course will be to examine how the question of the legitimacy of political violence – whether thought of as the monopoly of state violence (as manifested, for example, in warfare or the maintenance of the rule of law and order) or the right of resistance (leading to revolution and/or civil war) – is reflected and reflected upon in the German-language literature of the late 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. The readings are grouped under three main headings: the French Revolution, the Napoleonic wars (Wars of Liberation), and the literary activities leading up to the failed revolution of 1848, with a final nod in the direction of the ennui of the post-1871 Empire.

Texts:

Books:

Hannah Arendt:	<i>On Revolution</i>
Blackbourn, David:	<i>History of Germany, 1780-1918</i>
Büchner, Georg	<i>Dantons Tod</i>
Fontane, Theodor	<i>Schach von Wuthenow</i>
Grabbe, C. D.	<i>Napoleon oder die hundert Tage</i>
Heine, Heinrich	<i>Deutschland. Ein Wintermärchen</i>
Kleist, Heinrich v.	<i>Die Hermannsschlacht</i>
Kleist, Heinrich v.	<i>Michael Kohlhaas</i>
Marx/Engels	<i>Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei</i>
Schiller, Friedrich	<i>Über die ästhetische Erziehung des Menschen</i>
Schiller, Friedrich	<i>Wilhelm Tell</i>
Schmitt, Carl:	<i>Theorie des Partisans</i>
Weiss, Peter	<i>Marat/Sade</i>

E-reserves (password: enlightenment)

Clausewitz:	<i>Historical and Political Writings</i> (247-303, 329-34)
Donoso Cortes:	"Speech...Europe"
de Gouges:	<i>Erklärung der Rechte der Frau und Bürgerin</i>
Fichte:	<i>Reden an die deutsche Nation</i> (1 st and 8 th)
Forster:	Selections on the French Revolution
Grillparzer:	"Meine Erinnerungen...1848"
Heine:	Selections on Napoleon
Kleist:	Political writings (selections)
Lewald:	"Erinnerungen aus dem Jahr 1848" (selections)
Sieyès:	<i>What is the Third Estate</i> (ch. 5)
Schmitt:	"Donoso Cortes in Berlin"
Plus patriotic and revolutionary poetry	

Schedule:

Week of:

Aug. 28: T: Intro

French Revolution

(Blackbourn: *History of Germany 1780-1914*, pp. xiv-68)

(Any good encyclopedia article on French Revolution)

R: Arendt: *On Revolution* 11-58

Sept. 4: T: Arendt: *On Revolution* 59-140

R: Arendt: *On Revolution* 141-214

Sept. 11: T: Sieyès: *What is the Third Estate* (ch. 5)

Olympe de Gouges: *Erklärung der Rechte der Frau und Bürgerin*

R: Forster: *Parisische Umriss* (selection) and other writings

Sept. 18: T: Schiller: *Aesthetische Erziehung* (Letters 1-9)

W: Film: *Friedrich Schiller* (1940)

R: Schiller: *Wilhelm Tell*

Sept. 25: T: Büchner: *Danton's Tod*

W: Film: *Danton* (1931)

R: “ “

Oct. 2: T: Weiß: *Marat/Sade*

W: Film: *Marat/Sade* (1965)

R: “ “

Napoleonic Wars (of Liberation)

(Rothenberg: *The Napoleonic Wars* [optional])

Oct. 9: T: Fichte: *Reden an die deutsche Nation* (1st and 8th)

R: Clausewitz: *Historical & Political Writings* (247-62, 279-303, 329-34)

Oct. 16: T: Schmitt: *Theorie des Partisanen*

W: Film: *Der Rebell*

R: Schmitt: *Theorie* (cont.)

Kleist: Political writings

Körner: poetry

Oct. 23: T: Kleist: *Die Hermannsschlacht*

(Wells: *Battle/Rome* [30-36; 161-220] -- optional)

W: Film: *Schwarzer Jaeger Johanna* (1934)

R: Kleist: *Die Hermannsschlacht*

Oct. 30: T: Kleist: *Michael Kohlhaas*
R: “ “

Nov. 6: T: Heine on Napoleon
Grabbe: *Napoleon oder die hundert Tage*
R: “ “

1848

(Blackbourn: *History*, 69-131)

(Any good encyclopedia article on the revolutions of 1848)

Nov. 13: T: Heine: *Deutschland. Ein Wintermärchen*
R: “ “ “
Patriotic and revolutionary poetry

Nov. 20: **M: Film: *Und wieder '48* (1948)**
T: Marx/Engels: *Manifest*

R: **THANKSGIVING**

Nov. 27: T: Donoso Cortes: “Speech...Europe”
Schmitt: “Donoso Cortes in Berlin”
R: Grillparzer: “Meine Erinnerungen...1848”
Lewald: “Erinnerungen aus dem Jahr 1848”

Aftermath

(Blackbourn: *History*, 135-233)

Dec. 4: T: Poems by Heine, Fontane
Fontane: *Schach*
W: Film: *Fontane Effi Briest*
R: Fontane: *Schach* and film

Writing assignments:

Option A: One seminar paper on topic of your choice (ca. 20-25 pp.)

Option B: Two conference papers on topics of your choice (ca. 10-12 pp. each)

Option C: Take-home exam with specific questions on the texts.