

RUSSIAN AND POLISH ROMANTICISM

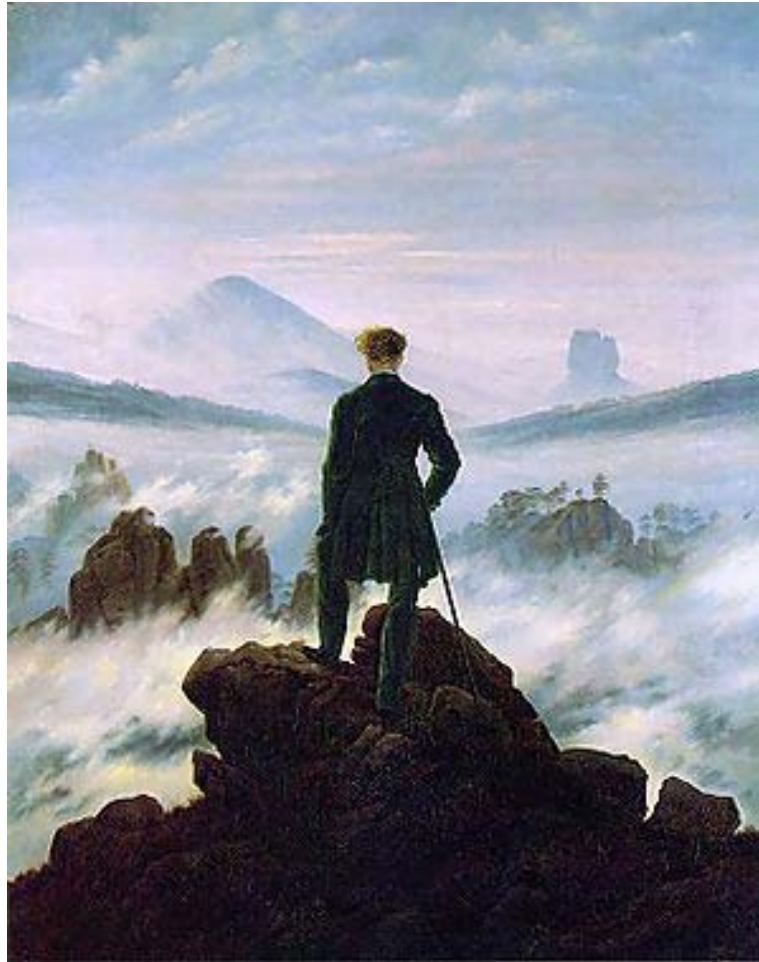
Slav-R601 (graduate seminar)

Fall 2009

Tuesdays 4-6:30 p.m.

Ballantine Hall 137

Prof. Justyna Beinek



Caspar David Friedrich, The Wanderer above the Sea of Fog, 1818

This course examines many definitions and hypostases of Romanticism, “the shift of consciousness that cracked the backbone of European thought,” as Isaac Berlin put it. We will focus in particular on the Romantic literary and cultural movement as it was practiced in Russia and partitioned Poland in the first half of the nineteenth century, while keeping in mind the larger Romantic West European and American context. We will approach the multi-faceted phenomenon of Romanticism by exploring a range of its topoi: the Romantic hero, emotion/feeling, love, journey/travel, memory and remembrance, death, the exotic, the irrational, the ineffable, national identity and political independence, the writer figure and issue of authorship, ruins and fragments, the salon life and life on a country estate, and folk/peasant culture. Ideas, texts, images, and music by Pushkin, Mickiewicz, Lermontov, Słowacki, Gogol, Pavlova, Krasiński, Tiutchev, Norwid, Zhukovsky, Baratynsky, Bunina, Chopin, Byron, Schlegel, Goethe, Kant, Rousseau, Szymanowska, Volkonskaia, Viazemskii, Iazykov, Lelewel, Ushakova, Olenina, and others.