German Romanticism: Literature, Philosophy, Science

Hist. 25401; 35401   CHSS 42400
Philos. 20701; 30700   HiPSS 26801
German 47000

Instructor: Robert J. Richards
Assistant: Charles Todd

I. Books: Books for the course are available in the Seminary Co-operative Bookstore (5757 University Ave.). They are the following:

A. Required reading:

   Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, *Sorrows of Young Werther*, translated by Mayer and Bogen (Vintage Classics)
   Kant, Immanuel, *Critique of Judgment*, trans. Werner Pluhar (Hackett)
   Novalis, *Hymns to the Night* (McPherson & Co.)
   Schleiermacher, Friedrich, *On Religion* (Cambridge)

B. 2 Packets of Photocopies: *Selected Readings in German Romanticism* and *Secondary Readings* (available for purchase in the Fishbein Center, Social Science Building, rm. 207).

C. Recommended but not required:

   Paul Guyer (ed.), *Cambridge Companion to Kant* (Cambridge)

D. For those who wish to try their hand

   Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, *Faust, Erster und Zweiter Teil* (Deutscher Taschenbuch)
   Goethe Johann Wolfgang von, *Die Leiden des jungen Werther* (Deutscher Taschenbuch)
   Kant, Immanuel, *Kritik der Urteilskraft* (Suhrkamp)
   Schleiermacher, Friedrich, *Ueber die Religion* (Felix Meiner)
II. Requirements:

1. Each student must read all the material under the heading "texts for discussion." The recommended reading should also be done, though perhaps with somewhat less assiduity. (Each Roman numeral represents a week of the quarter.)

2. On the Monday prior to each class, you should send to the instructor via the Chalk Drop Box a one or two page essay. The essay should be the answer to a question you have posed concerning some aspect of the reading for that week. The question might be suggested by the secondary reading, or by something that seems puzzling in the primary reading. Absolutely no longer than two pages. You should mark clearly on the paper whether you are an undergraduate or graduate student, and that designation should be part of the file you upload to the drop box.

3. For undergraduates, a 10-15 page paper will be due on Friday, March 10, by 12:00 p.m., in the Fishbein Center (Social Science Building, room 205). For graduate students, something a bit more ambitious, but due at the same time and place as the undergraduate papers. The topic will be of your own choosing.

4. There will be a final take-home exam with one question: What constitutes Romantic thought in Germany at the turn of the century? In answering this question, you should include instances taken from the primary reading for the course. You may answer the question as you see fit, but your answer should be no longer than five double-spaced pages. This exam should be turned in to the secretary in Social Sciences 207 by Thursday, March 16th at noon.

*Papers should be stapled and double spaced. Be sure to keep copies of all your written work (required).*

III. Office hours and communication

Office hours will be held in Social Sciences 205 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., and by appointment. Phone: 702-8348; Email: r-richards@uchicago.edu
Schedule of Discussions

I. Introduction
   A. Lecture: Scope and Nature of Romanticism.
   B. Recommended reading:
      1. Isaiah Berlin, “The Counter-Enlightenment,” in his *Against the Current*. In *Secondary Readings in German Romanticism*.
      2. Robert Richards, “Prologue,” and Chap. 1 of *The Romantic Conception of Life*.

II. The Prelude: Sturm und Drang
   A. Text for discussion: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Sorrows of Young Werther*.
   B. Recommended reading:

III. Kant and Herder
   A. Lecture: Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*.
   B. Texts for discussion:
   C. Recommended reading:

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IV. Kant's Critique of Judgment: Aesthetic Judgment
A. Texts for discussion: Immanuel Kant, Critique of Judgment, §1-22 (pp. 43-95); §23-24, 28-29 (pp. 97-101, 119-26); §41-50 (pp. 163-89).
B. Recommended reading:
   1. Translator’s “Introduction” to the Critique of Judgment, pp. xxiii-cix.

V. Kant's Critique of Judgment: Teleological Judgment
A. Texts for discussion: Immanuel Kant, Critique of the Power of Judgment, §61-70, 75-78, 80-83 (pp. 235-68, 280-300, 303-21).
B. Recommended reading:
   1. Richards, Romantic Conception of Life, chap. 5.

VI. Romantic Poetry
A. Texts for discussion:
   1. Selections of Goethe's Poetry (mostly from Selected Verse; translations are also in this volume): “Willkommen und Abschied” (pp. 9-10); “Heidenroselein” (pp. 10-11); “Ganymed” (pp. 15-16); “Prometheus” (pp. 17-19); “Wanders Nachlied, I and II” (pp. 49-50); “An den Mond” (two versions, pp. 50-54); “Bin so in Lieb...” (p. 75); “Erlkönig” (pp. 80-82); “Kennst du das Land...” (pp. 85-86); “Nur wer die Sehnsuch kennt...” (p. 87); “Römische Elegien” (in Selected...
Readings in German Romanticism); “Natur und Kunst” (p. 197); “Das Tagebuch” (pp. 202-211); and “Gefunden” (p. 218).

2. Friedrich von Hardenberg (Novalis), Hymns to the Night

B. Recommended reading:

VII. Goethe’s Faust
A. Texts for Discussion: Goethe’s Faust, part 1.
B. Recommended Reading:
1. Translator’s Introduction.
2. Goethe on Faust. In Secondary Readings in German Romanticism.
3. Comments by Contemporaries. In Secondary Readings in German Romanticism.

VIII. Aesthetic Theory
A. Texts for discussion:
1. Goethe’s theory of art: “Simple Imitation, Manner, Style.” In Selected Readings in German Romanticism.
3. Friedrich Schlegel et al. Athenaeum Fragments (1-6, 22, 34, 116-21, 252, 281). In Selected Readings in German Romanticism.
B. Recommended reading:

   *German Romantic Literary Theory* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993). In *Selected Readings in German Romanticism*.

2. Richards, *Romantic Conception of Life*, chap. 2, pp 36-59; 105-113; chap. 4; chap. 11, pp. 407-34.

IX. Grounding Philosophy of German Romanticism: Idealism and *Naturphilosophie*

A. Texts for discussion:

1. Anonymous [Schelling?], “The Oldest Systematic Program of German Idealism,” in *Selected Readings in German Romanticism*.


4. F. W. J. Schelling, “Deduction of a Universal Organ of Philosophy, or Main Propositions of the Philosophy of Art.” In *Selected Readings in German Romanticism*.

B. Recommended Reading:

1. Richards, *Romantic Conception of Life*, chap. 2, pp. 72-90; and chap. 3.


X. Romantic Approach to Religion

A. Texts for discussion:


2. Heinrich von Kleist, “The Earthquake in Chile.” In *Selected..."
Readings in German Romanticism.

B. Recommended Reading: Richards, *Romantic Conception of Life*, chap. 2, pp. 94-105.