

# A CULTURAL HISTORY OF GERMAN ROMANTICISM

Humanities Seminar Fall 2019

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Mondays 9:00-12:00

Humanities Seminar Program/Helen Rubel Room at the UA Poetry Center

Professor Emeritus Steven D. Martinson, Ph.D.

### Session 1 (September 23, 2019)

#### General Introduction

##### Part 1:

What is Romanticism? The power of creative imagination (*Einbildungskraft*) fueled the literature, art, philosophy, and science of the time. Paintings by Caspar David Friedrich and Philipp Otto Runge serve to highlight the visual culture of German Romanticism. We attempt to define “romanticism” and the Romantic movement in the German provinces, including the concepts of *Volk* and nation.

#### Break (10-15 mins.)

##### Part 2:

According to the early German theorist and novelist, Friedrich Schlegel (*Athenäum*-Fragment # 216), the greatest developments in the Age of Romanticism are the French Revolution [History], Fichte’s Theory of Knowledge (*Wissenschaftslehre*) [Philosophy/Science], and Goethe’s *Wilhelm Meisters Apprenticeship (Lehrjahre)* [Literature]. Seminararians are introduced to German responses to the French Revolution, the Reign of Terror, and the Napoleonic Wars, philosophical idealism, and German literary culture. Attention is directed to monuments to the revolutionary developments of the time in German architecture.

### Session 2 (September 30)

#### Romanticism On the Ground

##### Part 1:

Salons and Coffee Houses

Dorothea Schlegel  
 Henriette Herz  
 Rahel von Varnhagen

## **Break**

### Part 2:

The Salon continued

Richter's Kaffeehaus (in the Romanushaus, Stadtpalais, Leipzig; today: Café Richter). G.W. Richter was a wine distributor.)

"Zum Arabischen Coffe Baum" (in the Fleischergasse, Leipzig) [visited by Robert Schumann, et al.]

J. S. Bach's "Coffee-Cantata" ("Schweigt stille, plauder nicht" = Be still, stop chattering) (1734)

**Note:** See **Handout** with Readings for Session 3. Please acquaint yourselves with one or two of them. You are not required to do so.

## **Session 3** (October 7)

### German Romantic Poetry and Prose 1

#### Part 1:

#### Poetry

Friedrich von Hardenberg (Novalis), "Hymns to the Night" [*Hymnen an die Nacht*]

Joseph Baron von Eichendorff, "Moonlit Night" ["Mondnacht"]

Clemens Brentano, "Loreley" ["Lorelei"]

Karoline von Günderode, Selections from her *Poems and Fantasies* (Gedichte und Phantasien, 1804)

August Wilhelm Schlegel, Berlin Lectures (1801/1804)

## **Break**

### Part 2:

### The German Romantic Novel

Novalis, *Heinrich von Ofterdingen*, Part II: *The Fulfillment* [Die Erfüllung]

**Note:** See **Handout** for Readings (excerpts from two novels and Goethe's drama, *Faust*)

**Session 4** (October 14)

German Romantic Poetry and Prose 2

Part 1:

Novels "in Love": Friedrich Schlegel's *Lucinde* and Dorothea Schlegel's *Florentin*

**Break**

Part 2:

"Late" Romanticism: E. T. A. Hoffmann, *The Devil's Elixir* [Elixir des Teufels]

Goethe's Faust: A Tragic Romantic Hero?

**Session 5** (October 21)

Musical Elevations 1

Guest Pianist and Lecturer

Composers, Pianists, and Singers.

The Symphony, Instrumental Music, and the Concerto

**Note:** See Handout of Readings. Many of these are virtually unknown in the English translations. Seminararians will be the first (anywhere) to consider this material.

**Session 6** (October 28)

German Romantic Poetry and Prose 3

Lesser and Little-Known Texts (with original translations of excerpts by the instructor, SDM)

Part 1

E. T. A. Hoffmann, Review of Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony, *Allgemeine Musikalische Zeitung* [Leipzig] 12 (1810): 40-41; "Beethoven's Instrumental Music," *Collected Works* [*Sämtliche Werke*]. and "Thoughts on the High Value of Music," *Collected Works* [*Sämtliche Werke*]  
 Ludwig van Beethoven, *The Ninth Symphony* and Friedrich Schiller's Poem, "The Ode to Joy"  
 (An die Freude)

## **Break**

### Part 2

Ludwig Tieck, *Eckert, the Blond* [Der blonde Eckbert]

Wilhelm Heinrich Wackenroder and Ludwig Tieck, *The Remarkable Life of Music of the Composer Joseph Berglinger* [*Das merkwürdige musikalische Leben des Tonkünstlers Joseph Berglinger*]

**Note:** See Handout with Readings. **See also the schedule of classes for November!**

**Session 7** (November 4) **Note:** We meet again in two weeks.

### Romanticism and the Sciences

#### Part 1:

Goethe's *The Metamorphosis of Plants* (Metamorphose der Pflanzen, 1790)

Novalis, *Pollen* [Blüthenstaub, 1798]

The Science of Romanticism: The Physicist, Johann Wilhelm Ritter

#### Part 2:

Johann Wilhelm Ritter, *Fragments from the Literary Estate of a Young Physicist. A Pocket Book for Friends of Nature* [Fragmente aus dem Nachlasse eines jungen Physikers. Ein Taschenbuch für Freunde der Natur, 1810]

**Note:** See **Handout** of Readings (e.g., excerpts from the *Song of the Nibelungs* [1200] and Wagner's *The Art Work of the Future*, available online at: <http://users.skynet.be/johndeere/wlpdf/wlpr0062.pdf>)

**Session 8** (November 18) **Note:** We meet again in two weeks.

### Musical Elevations 2

#### Part 1:

Schumann (the *Lieder*), etc.

Guest Pianist and Singer

#### **Break**

#### Part 2:

Richard Wagner, *The Art Work of the Future* (*Das Kunstwerk der Zukunft*; Leipzig, 1849)

<http://users.skynet.be/johndeere/wlpdf/wlpr0062.pdf>

The *Ring Cycle* and the Medieval German Epic, *Song of the Nibelungs*

### **Session 9** (December 2)

Filmic Representations of German Romanticism and Presentations of German Romanticism in Film

**Note:** See **Handout** for Excerpts from Heinrich Heine, National Socialist Writers/Propagandists, and the Rolling Stones, and Thea Dorn's novel [=first excerpts in English]

**Session 10** (December 9)The Reception of Romanticism in the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and Early 21<sup>st</sup> CenturiesPart 1

Heinrich Heine's Critique of the History and Religion of Romanticism (19<sup>th</sup> Century) See his:  
*Religion and Philosophy in Germany*

National-Socialist Ideology and Romanticism (*Volk* and Nation) (20<sup>th</sup> Century)

**Break**Part 2

National Socialism in Literature and Art

Romanticism Today: The Rolling Stones, *Rock and Romanticism* (21<sup>st</sup> Century), et al.

Thea Dorn, *The Unfortunates* [*Hapless*] [*Die Unglückseligen*, 2016] [excerpts translated by  
SDM]

**CONCLUSION****Selected Reading List** (not required to purchase; handouts are provided at no cost)

Numerous excerpts from various works of German Romanticism have been translated by the instructor. They are available on the handouts as noted under the outlines of sessions above. *Be sure to pick up the relevant handout in advance of the relevant session.* The following is a selection of the entire text, should you be interested in reading through the full text. Not all of the books listed above are available in English translation.

Friedrich von Hardenberg ("Novalis"), *Heinrich von Ofterdingen. A Romance.* Dover Publications (First Edition, Digital Original edition [May 11, 2015]). ISBN: 8826403732  
Or: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/31873> for Freebook

Friedrich von Hardenberg ("Novalis"), *Pollen and Fragments*, translated and introduced by Arthur Versluis. Grand Rapids: Phanes Press, 1989. ISBN: 978-0933999763

Heinrich Heine. *On the History of Religion and Philosophy in Germany*, translated by Howard Pollack-Milgate. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2007. ISBN: 9780521861298

Or: [http://assets.cambridge.org/97805216/78506/frontmatter/9780521678506\\_frontmatter.pdf](http://assets.cambridge.org/97805216/78506/frontmatter/9780521678506_frontmatter.pdf)

E. T. A. Hoffmann. *The Devil's Elixirs*, translated by Ronald Taylor. e-artnow, 2018. Available online, search for the title.

Or: *The Devil's Elixir*, translated by Raymond Khoury. Available online, search for the title. For a hardcopy to purchase, see Amazon. Berkley (2012). A Templar Novel (=Book 4). ISBN: 978-0451237569

Richard Wagner, *The Art Work of the Future*, available online at:

<http://users.skynet.be/johndeere/wlpdf/wlpr0062.pdf>

In book form: *The Art-Work of the Future and Other Works*, translated by William Ashton Ellis. Lincoln: Nebraska University Press, 1983. ISBN: 978-0-8032-9752-4. Available through the press for \$25.00.

*The Nibelungenlied* [*The Song of the Nibelungs*], translated by Margaret Armour. See:

[http://www.yorku.ca/inpar/nibelung\\_armour.pdf](http://www.yorku.ca/inpar/nibelung_armour.pdf)

Or: *The Song of the Nibelungs: A Verse Translation from the Middle High German Nibelungenlied* by Frank Rider. Detroit: Wayne State UP, 1962. ISBN: 978-0814311929

Ludwig Tieck, *Fair Eckbert* [Der blonde Eckbert], translated by Paul B. Thomas.

[https://germanstories.vcu.edu/tieck/eckbert\\_e.html](https://germanstories.vcu.edu/tieck/eckbert_e.html)

Friedrich von Schlegel, *Lucinde and the Fragments*, translated and introduced by Peter Firchow. St. Paul/Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1971. ISBN: 978-0816657667

#### General Readings:

*Bitter Healing: German Women Writers from 1700-1830: An Anthology*, edited by Jeannine Blackwell and Suzanne Zantop. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990. ISBN: 0-8032-9909-5

*Six German Romantic Tales: Heinrich von Kleist, Ludwig Tieck, E.T.A. Hoffmann*, translated by Ronald Taylor. Dufour Editions, 2004. ISBN: 0802312950

Sample Poems of National Socialism at: <https://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/hitpoet.htm> ; and at: <http://remember.org/imagine/kyle/poetry>