



GERM 615

Fall 2020

Cultural Foundations in German Studies II (taking the place of Foundations I)

MW 3:10 – 4:25

Dr. Clayton Koelb

An intensive survey of literary, cultural and intellectual developments in German-speaking lands between 1750-1900, with attention to research methods of the field. We begin with the Enlightenment and move through the sometimes intersecting and sometimes divergent movements of Sturm und Drang, Romanticism, Weimar Classicism, Biedermeier, Vormärz, and Realism, as well as thinkers who defy categorization. Our goal is to cultivate an understanding of literary history as a cultural formation that changes over time.

Through critical readings from a variety of theoretical perspectives, we will explore distinct approaches to analyzing texts and related cultural artifacts in order to foster a knowledge of the modern tools of scholarly inquiry (editions, translations, dictionaries, critical approaches and methods) that are fundamental to the field of German Studies.

This is a reading-intensive seminar. In addition to completing the readings and participating actively in seminar discussions, students will take a midterm and final exam and give several oral presentations. No papers will be required. Readings in German; class discussion in English.