

Comp Lit 501/ German 510
Fall 2012

Professor Martha Helfer
mhelfer@rci.rutgers.edu
Office hours: Monday 2:30-3:30
and by appointment, 172 College Ave

Introduction to Literary Theory: The Romantic Period

This course will trace the genealogy of contemporary literary criticism from Kant through the German romantics to early twentieth-century critical theory and deconstruction. In particular, we will explore the role of aesthetics and art in major philosophical theories of subjectivity, and the structure of critical discourse in these theories. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical reading and writing skills.

The language of instruction is English. All readings are available in English and, where applicable, in German. No knowledge of German is required for the course!

Course requirements: Thorough preparation of assigned texts, active class participation (5%), three take-home essay exams (20%, 25%, 50%). Students must complete **all** assignments to receive credit for the course! Students are expected to do their own work on all assignments; collaboration with others is not allowed. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. **NOTE: DEADLINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS ARE HARD DEADLINES – NO EXTENSIONS, NO INCOMPLETES!!**

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric difficulties. Please contact the instructor of this course at the *beginning* of the semester to discuss any such accommodations for this course.

9/10 Introduction
Goethe: "Dedication"
Kant: "Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?"
"Preface" to the first edition of the *Critique of Pure Reason*

9/17 Kant: *Critique of Judgment* ("The Beautiful") **RESCHEDULE**

9/24 Kant: *Critique of Judgment* ("The Sublime")

10/1 Schiller: *On the Aesthetic Education of Man* (Letters 1-9)
take-home exam #1 due at 4:30 p.m.

10/8 (author unknown): "Oldest System-Program of German Idealism"
Schlegel: fragments (selection)

10/15 Schlegel: *Conversation on Poetry*

10/22 Hegel: *Phenomenology*: "master-slave dialectic"

10/29 Nietzsche: "On Truth and Lie in an Extramoral Sense"

11/5 Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy*
take-home exam #2 due at 4:30 p.m.

11/12 Lukács: *Theory of the Novel*

11/19 Benjamin: "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"

11/26 Heidegger: "The Age of the World Picture"
Derrida: "Signature, Event, Context"

12/3 Derrida: "White Mythology"

12/10 review

12/17 **Take-home final exam due at 2:30 p.m.**
