



HUHC 020A, Sec. 01 (CRN: CRN 60348)

German Expressionism in Art and Literature in early 20th-century Germany

Summer 2013 May 22 - June 19. MTWR 4:15 - 6:40

[meeting times will shift at times for excursions into / meetings in Manhattan on Friday or weekends]

Neil H. Donahue, Professor of German and Comparative Literature /Senior Associate Dean, Honors College

This 4-week multidisciplinary seminar will look at the rise of modernity in early 20th-century Germany through the prism of German Expressionism, an exciting, explosive and diverse movement in the arts that spread across painting, sculpture, printmaking, music, poetry, drama, prose and graphic novels into film, and even into criticism, scholarship and politics in the period from 1905 to 1925 primarily, with its high points just before and after the First World War (1914-1918). These explorations will provide students with a solid grounding in the avant-garde, historical developments and theoretical reflections on early 20th-century art and culture. In the spirit of our HUHC first-year sequence, the artistic expressions of the period (in multiple media and genres) will emerge and get interpreted against the historical context and other discourses of the day. We will also track how the influence of German Expressionism extended into the period of the Weimar Republic and Third Reich, and into film history in Germany and into Hollywood through the exile community. Around a common core of assigned works, students will develop their own perspective on the period, under advisement, reflecting on their major or interests. The flex-format of this seminar will include regular on-campus meetings, individual screenings of films, group visits to Hofstra Museum and Special Collections (to view and discuss Hofstra's holdings), and regular group meetings in NYC to visit important collections (Neue Galerie, Museum of Modern Art, galleries). Students will also have meetings online to discuss online research into other collections and archives in the U.S. and abroad.

Students proficient in German can receive credit toward the German major or minor by arrangement with the professor. This seminar will also count toward the Comparative Literature & Languages major/minor, and possibly other majors upon review by the chairperson. Please contact the professor at Neil.H.Donahue@hofstra.edu to discuss your interests.

