

ARTH-A580 TOPICS IN ART HISTORY: GERMAN ART IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT

The class examines the development of German painting and sculpture from the rise of Neoclassicism to the formation of Expressionism, which spans approximately the period from the French Revolution to World War I. It focuses on the tension, on the one hand, between a developing nationalist sensibility and the concomitant search for a national style, and, on the other hand, German art's intense engagement with the international art context. Given the particularities of German history, the question of periphery and center assumed a crucial role in the making of the German art world. Focusing on this problematic will allow us to examine the love-hate relationship of Germans and their art to the culture of France and England, and shed light on the role of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the creation of German artistic identity. Periphery and center will also be key concepts for thinking about another vital issue of the period: religion. In an age characterized by burgeoning confessionality and the rise of an anti-Semitism increasingly grounded in racist theories, religion served as an arbiter for inclusion and exclusion, and was thus inseparably intertwined with the debates about German national identity.

FALL 2017
CLASS #12627
PROFESSOR
CORDULA GREWE
FINE ARTS 005
TR 1:00-2:15

