This seminar addresses how encounters between Germans and the African Diaspora changed notions of race, nation, identity and belonging in the 20th century. Since before the jazz age to the present, Blackness has posed both an allure as well as a danger for Germans, especially those who view Black culture as challenging “old world” traditions. How does one explain Germans’ fear and simultaneous love of Blackness? How have many Black intellectuals and artists responded to this puzzling contradiction? And what do discourses on and encounters with Blackness mean for Germany’s future?