

The German Idea of War

Offered in conjunction with UNC's *World War I Centenary Project*, this English-language lecture course explores how the arts - literature, film and painting - shaped the idea of war before, during and after World War I. Questions this course poses include:

- Why and how did the arts praise war before its outbreak?
- How did the arts idealize the experience of war?
- How did the war push the limits of artistic expression?
- What exactly was war supposed to achieve and how did the brutality of war alter these aspirations?
- What lessons did art learn in the shadow of the Great War?

In addition to literary texts by some of the greatest German-language writers of the early 20th century (Jünger, Kraus, Remarque, Richthofen, Rilke, Schnitzler, Trakl), students will encounter attendant philosophical ideas by such thinkers such as Benjamin, Dilthey, Freud, Lukács, Nietzsche, Wittgenstein as well as screen films (Hofer, Lang, Reinert, Wiene) and view art (Dix, Kandinsky, Marc, Nolde) held in the Ackland collection. GERMAN 290 requires no previous knowledge of the German language.

Spring 2015

GERMAN 290, Section 001

MW 11:15-12:05 + Th/F Recitation Section

Instructor: Dr. Richard Langston



