

German 860: Aesthetics and Poetry



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Professor Gabriel Trop

Fall 2016

Tu 4:40 PM - 7:10 PM



This course will examine the relationship between aesthetics and poetry starting in the eighteenth century and continuing into the twenty-first century. Baumgarten's *Philosophical Reflections on Poetry* (1735) launches the birth of aesthetics by rethinking the philosophical status of poetic objects: not only does poetry become an appropriate object of philosophical discourse, but it produces and embodies its own particular media-specific form of truth. This seminar will follow threads that link aesthetic discourses, poetic practices of production and reception, the precise yet elusive form of poetic objects, and the discursive and philosophical fields of meaning and truth-production--ethical, political, scientific--in relationship to which poetic objects position themselves. Authors include: Baumgarten, Kant, Hölderlin, Schelling, Novalis, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Benjamin, Lukàcs, Celan, Rancière, Badiou, among others. Class discussion in English, readings in English (the German and French originals will be available for those who can read these languages). This course, which emphasizes the continental aesthetic tradition and will include later nineteenth- and twentieth-century contributions, has been designed to complement Professor Robert Mitchell's class on aesthetics at Duke which will be held on Wednesdays 11:45am – 2:15 pm.