

The German Idea of War



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.

GERM 281 requires no previous knowledge of the German language. This course fulfills the PH approach and the GL and NA connections.

Spring 2018
GERMAN 281, Section 001
MW 1:25-2:15 + F Recitation Section
Instructor: Dr. Richard Langston

