

This course explores the development of the German Bildungsroman tradition from the late eighteenth to the late twentieth century.

Based on close readings of exemplary texts, the focus will be on identifying both common generic traits (formal and thematic) and changing notions of the subject, aesthetics, and the relations of the subject and social sphere.

While mostly addressing the literary tradition, we will also consider some of the other discursive dimensions to Bildung, especially in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. We will also experiment with varied theoretical approaches, including psychoanalysis, gender studies, and Foucault-inspired historicism.

Works to be read include Goethe's *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre*, Schlegel's *Lucinde*, Novalis' *Heinrich von Ofterdingen*, Keller's *Der Grüne Heinrich*, Mann's *Der Zauberberg*, and, time permitting, Handke's *Der Kurze Brief zum langen Abschied*, and Wolf's *Nachdenken über Christa T.*

Readings in German; Class discussions in English

Dr Eric Downing

Tuesdays, 4:40 - 7:10 pm

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GERM 865: Bildungsroman

