I. Course Description
Borrowing its title from Nietzsche, this course examines some of the most famous and infamous figures—mythological, fictional and historical—that have profoundly shaped German identity. As we explore the actual lives, works, and influence of the likes of Luther, Faust, and Leni Riefenstahl, you will not only develop a greater understanding of Wagner’s question "What is German?" but also learn how the answer to that question has come to epitomize notions of good and evil in general.

10-hour: W; CI

II. Texts to be purchased:
Mary Fulbrook, *A Concise History of German*
Heinrich Heine, *Germany, A Winter’s Tale* (trans. T.J. Reed)
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (trans. Walter Kaufmann)
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust* (trans. Walter Kaufmann)
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

All books are at Wheelock Books. All films are available at Jones Media Center; they can also be watched on streaming format through Humanities Resources (instructions on Blackboard).

III. Syllabus

Week One

Wednesday, March 26
Introduction: “What is German?” An overview how, over the centuries, “German” has been defined in terms of language, culture, nationality, race, and geography, and how questions of identity have been connected to ethics and morality.
Nietzsche, “Aphorism 244” from *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886)
Fulbrook 1-8; 258-271

Friday, March 28
—No class—
Week Two
“The Nibelungen”

Monday, March 31
*The Nibelungenlied* (early 13th century)
Fulbrook 9-32
Guest speaker: Bruce Duncan

Wednesday, April 2
*The Nibelungenlied*
Guest speaker: Bruce Duncan

Friday, April 4
Fritz Lang, *Siegfried’s Death* (1924)
Discussion

Saturday, April 5
Film Screening, 6:00 pm, 105 Dartmouth Hall
“Along Come the Tourists” (”Am Ende kommen Touristen”) by Robert Thalheim, Germany 2007. German and Polish, with English subtitles. Followed by a discussion with the director. Mandatory!
(For details, go to: [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~german/](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~german/) and look under “Germania Events”)

Week Three
“Mysticism and Protestantism”

Monday, April 7
Hildegard von Bingen (ca 1098-1179)
Hildegard, “11,000 Virgins”
Hildegard, “Visions”
♫ “Oh dulcime amator” (on Hildegard von Bingen, “11,000 Virgins”)
Fulbrook 33-68
Guest speaker: Yuliya Komska
☐ Two-page paper on Nibelungen due

Wednesday, April 9
Meister Eckhart (ca 1260-1328), “Sermons”
Guest speaker: Yuliya Komska

Friday, April 11
Martin Luther (1483-1546), “To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation Concerning the Reform of the Christian Estate”
Midterm questions handed out
Guest speaker: Byron Breese

Week Four
“Sympathy for the Devil”
Monday, April 14
Goethe, *Faust, Part I* (1808) and excerpts from *Faust, Part II* (1832)
Fulbrook 69-103
Guest speaker: Ellis Shookman

Wednesday, April 16
Goethe, *Faust, Part I* and excerpts from *Faust, Part II*
Midterm handed out

“Dark Tales”
Friday, April 18
The Brothers Grimm, “Sleeping Beauty,” “Rumpelstiltskin,” “Little Red Riding Hood” (1812 ff)
Guest speaker: Christopher Schnader

Week Five

Monday, April 21
E.T.A. Hoffmann, “The Sandman” (1817)
Paintings by Caspar David Friedrich and Johann Heinrich Füssli
☐ Midterm due

“German Romantic Opera”
Wednesday, April 23
Carl Maria von Weber, Libretto of *Der Freischütz (The Wild Huntsman)* (1821)
♫ *Der Freischütz*
Fulbrook 104-154
Guest speaker: John Kopper

Friday, April 25
Richard Wagner, Libretto of *Siegfried* (1876)
♫ *Siegfried*
Wagner on German art and the “Gesamtkunstwerk”

Week Six
“The Re-Evaluation of Values”
Monday, April 28
Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848); excerpts from *The German Ideology* (1845-47/1932)
Guest speaker: Michael Ermarth

Wednesday, April 30
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886)

Friday, May 2
Discussion
Week Seven
“The Uncanny”

Monday, May 5
Sigmund Freud, “The Uncanny” (1919) & excerpts from Civilization and its Discontents (1930)
Guest speaker: Veronika Fuechtner

Wednesday, May 7
Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (1915)
Guest speaker: Ulrike Rainer

Friday, May 9
Robert Wiene, The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920, 75 min)

Week Eight
“The Masses: Euphoria, Hysteria, Paranoia”

Monday, May 12
Fritz Lang, M (1931, 117 min)
Fulbrook 155-204
☐ Two-page paper due

Wednesday, May 14
Ray Müller, The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Riefenstahl (1993, 180 min)

Thursday, May 15
Lecture: Steven Bach, “Leni: The Life and Work of Leni Riefenstahl”
4:15 pm Kreindler Auditorium (041 Haldemann). Mandatory!
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~lhc/events/2008/bach.html

Friday, May 16
Thomas Mann, “On Anti-Semitism,” NBC Radio Broadcast, March 9, 1940 (1:30)

Week Nine
“Victims and Perpetrators”

Monday, May 19
Fulbrook 205-258
Guest speaker: Ulrike Rainer

Wednesday, May 21
Hannes Stöhr, Berlin Is in Germany (2001, 93 min)
Guest speaker: Veronika Fuechtner
Take-home final handed out

Friday, May 23

Week Ten
“Conclusion”

Monday, May 26
— Memorial Day —

Wednesday, May 28
Wrap-up

Sunday, June 1
☐ Take-home final due

**IV. Requirements**
The format each week will consist of either one or two lectures plus one or two discussion sections, or several 45-minute lectures followed by discussion. *Preparation, attendance,* and *participation* are essential. It is furthermore important that you keep up with the regular reading, listening and viewing assignments. Requirements: two two-page papers; one take-home midterm; one take-home final.

We encourage students with disabilities, including ‘invisible’ disabilities like chronic diseases, learning disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities to discuss with me after class or during my office hours appropriate accommodations that might be helpful to them.