

Anglo-German Aesthetics in the “Long” Eighteenth Century

Course Code: SMLM 038

Section One: Aesthetics and the Problem of Form

Week 1: Neo-Classicism and Enlightenment Aesthetics in England and Germany

Reading: Rosemary Ashton, “England and Germany,” *A Companion to Romanticism*, ed. Duncan Wu (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1998) 495-504.

Kai Hammermeister, “Enlightenment Thought and Natural Law from Leibniz to Kant and its Influence on German Literature,” *German Literature of the Eighteenth Century: The Enlightenment and Sensibility, The Camden House History of German Literature*, vol.5, ed. Barbara Becker-Cantarino (Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2005) 33-54.

Robert L. Montgomery, “Neoclassical Poetics,” *The New Princeton Encyclopaedia of Poetry and Poetics*, ed. A. Preminger and T.V.F. Brogan (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993) 825-831.

Week 2: The Sublime and the Beautiful 1: Edmund Burke's *A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origins of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful* (1756).

Reading: Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*, ed. James T. Boulton (London: Routledge, 1958) parts III and IV (91-159)

Week 3: The Sublime and the Beautiful 2: Kant's *Kritik der Urteilskraft* (1790).

Reading: Immanuel Kant, *Kritik der Urteilskraft* (any edition), “Zweites Buch. Analytik des Erhabenen,” § 23-29.

Section Two: Genius

Week 4: Conceptualisations of Genius in Eighteenth Century England: Shaftesbury and Edward Young.

Reading: Shaftesbury, Anthony Ashley Cooper, “A Letter Concerning Enthusiasm”, *Anthony Ashley Cooper, Third Earl of Shaftesbury: Standard Edition, Complete Works, Selected Letters and Posthumous Writings*, ed. and trans. G. Hemmerich and W. Benda, vol. 1.1 (Stuttgart: Frommann-Holzboog, 1981) 302-375.

Edward Young, *Conjectures on Original Composition* (Leeds: Scholar Press, 1966).

Week 5: Shakespeare as a model for Genius in Eighteenth Century Germany: Herder and Goethe.

Reading: Goethe, “Zum Shakespears Tag (1771),” *Werke* (Frankfurter Ausgabe), vol. 1.18 (Frankfurt am Main: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 1998) 9-12.

Herder, “Shakespear (1773),” *Werke*, ed. Günter Arnold et al, vol. 2 (Frankfurt am Main: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 1998) 498-521.

Goethe, "Shakespeare und kein Ende!" *Werke* (Frankfurter Ausgabe), vol. 1.19 (Frankfurt am Main: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 1998) 637-650

Week 6: Two late eighteenth century theories of Genius: Kant, *Kritik der Urteilskraft* (1790); Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (1793).

Reading: Immanuel Kant, *Kritik der Urteilskraft* (any edition), § 43-50.

William Blake, "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell", *The Complete Poems*, ed. A. Ostriker (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1977) 180-195.

Week 7: Reading Week.

Section Three: Theories of Literature

Week 8: Language, Literature and National Identity: Herder, Goethe and the "Ossian" Phenomenon.

Reading: Johann Gottfried Herder, "Auszug aus einem Briefwechsel über Ossian und die Lieder alter Völker," *Werke*, ed. Günter Arnold et al, vol. 2 (Frankfurt am Main: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 1998) 447-497.

Johann Wolfgang Goethe, "Goethe to Herder, September, 1771", *Werke* (Frankfurter Ausgabe), vol. 2.1 (Frankfurt am Main: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 1997) 240-245.

Week 9: Literature and the Crisis of Modernity: Schiller's *Über naive und sentimentalische Dichtung* (1795)

Reading: Friedrich Schiller, "Über naive und sentimentalische Dichtung", *Werke und Briefe* (Frankfurter Ausgabe), vol. 8 (Frankfurt am Main: Deutscher Klassiker Verlag, 1992) 706-810.

Week 10: Literature, Landscape and the Rural: Wordsworth and Coleridge "Preface to the Lyrical Ballads" (1800).

Reading: William Wordsworth, "Preface to the Lyrical Ballads (1800 version)," *Lyrical Ballads*, ed. R.L. Brett and A.R. Jones (London: Routledge, 1991) 241-272.

Week 11: Romanticism Conceptualised: Friedrich Schlegel's "Athenäums Fragmente," (1798) and "Gespräch über die Poesie" (1800).

Reading: Friedrich Schlegel, "Fragment 116, Athenäums-Fragmente (1798)", *Kritische Schriften und Fragmente [1798-1801]*, ed. Ernst Behler and Hans Eichner, vol. 2 (Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 1988) 114-115.

Friedrich Schlegel "Gespräch über die Poesie (Einleitung)", *Kritische Schriften und Fragmente [1798-1801]*, ed. Ernst Behler and Hans Eichner, vol. 2 (Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 1988) 186-201.

Week 12: "German" Aesthetics in an English Form: Coleridge's *Biographia Literaria*.

Reading: Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*, ed. J. Shawcross, vol. 1 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1907), chapters 9 and 13.

Secondary Reading

Ashfield, Andrew, and Peter De Bolla, eds. *The Sublime: a Reader in British Eighteenth Century Aesthetic Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

- Behler, Ernst. *German Romantic Literary Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Beiser, Frederick. *The Romantic Imperative: The Concept of Early German Romanticism*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004.
- Bernstein, Jay. *Classic and Romantic German Aesthetics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Bowie, Andrew. *Aesthetics and Subjectivity from Kant to Nietzsche*. 2nd Ed. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2003.
- Crowther, Paul. *The Kantian Sublime*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Gaut, Berys and Dominic Mclver Lopes, eds. *The Routledge Companion to Aesthetics*. London: Routledge, 2001.
- Görner, Rüdiger, ed. *Anglo-German Affinities and Antipathies*. Munich: Iudicium, 2004.
- Harland, Richard. "The Rise and Fall of Neoclassicism." *Literary Theory from Plato to Barthes: an Introductory History*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 1999. 29-59.
- Murray, Penelope, ed. *Genius: The History of an Idea*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1989.
- Nicholls, Angus. *Goethe's Concept of the Daemonic: After the Ancients*. Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2006.
- Nisbet, Hugh Barr, ed. *German Aesthetic and Literary Criticism: Winckelmann, Lessing, Hamann, Herder, Schiller, Goethe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.
- Nisbet, H. B., and Claude Rawson, eds. *The Eighteenth Century*. Vol. 4 of *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- Preminger, A., and T.V.F. Brogan, eds. *The New Princeton Encyclopaedia of Poetry and Poetics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993.
- Saul, Nicholas, ed. *Philosophy and German Literature, 1700-1990*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Schmidt, Jochen. *Die Geschichte des Genie-Gedankens in der deutschen Literatur, Philosophie und Politik 1750-1945*. 2 vols. Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1985.
- Simon, Irène. *Neo-Classical Criticism, 1660-1800*. London: Edward Arnold, 1971.
- Simpson, David, ed. *German Aesthetic and Literary Criticism: Kant, Fichte, Schelling, Schopenhauer, Hegel*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.
- Tombo, Rudolf. *Ossian in Germany*. New York, NY: AMS Press, 1966.

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