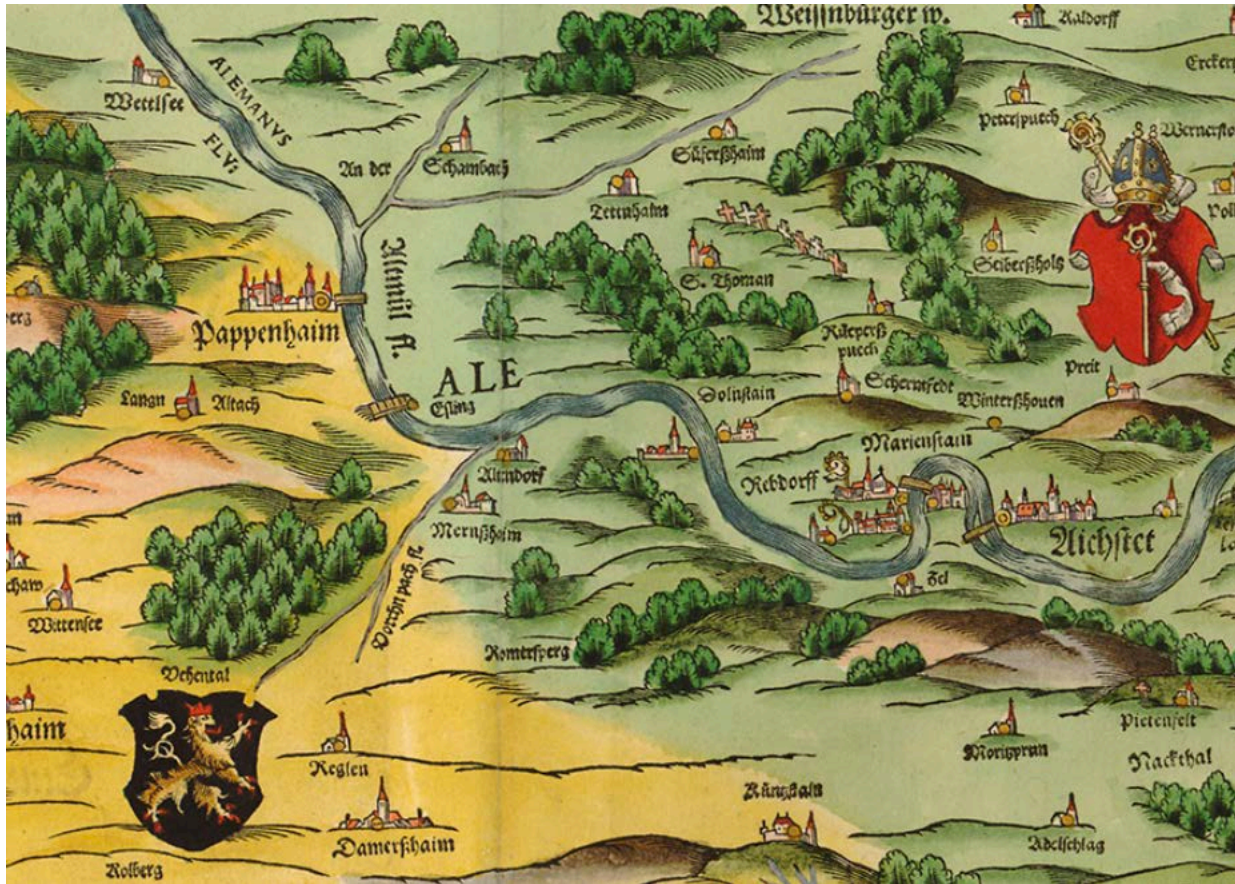


Forests, Rivers, and Mountains in German Culture



W/F 11:10AM-12:30PM
University Hall 086

Professor Birkhold
Spring 2019

The forest has been the setting for countless works of German art and literature. It is a contested national symbol, the source of economic and environmental anxiety, and the origin for philosophical concepts like *Waldeinsamkeit*. The forest remains a popular destination for campers, mushroomers, and hikers alike. Perhaps unsurprisingly, a majority of Germans today conflate “nature” and “forest.” How has the concept of the forest changed in Germany over time? What does this tell us about evolving notions of nature, the *Umwelt*, and our relationship with it? For comparison, we’ll consider the place of rivers and mountains in German culture. In addition to studying famous works of art, music, literature, and philosophy, we’ll investigate historical and contemporary German practices. And we’ll explore some nature ourselves.

The class will be conducted in German.
Prerequisite: 2102 or equivalent; or permission of instructor.