Mountains of the Mind:
German Culture and Alpine Fascinations

This GE class explores the fascination with mountains in German-speaking cultures. Long venerated as sacred in many cultures, mountains in the modern age emerged as particularly productive projection screens for human psychology and frequently feature as locations for archetypal human struggles. We will read classic travelogues, Romantic poetry, scientific journals and a short novella. Visual material will include a range of landscape paintings as well as classic and contemporary Bergfilme (‘mountain movies’, the “German Western”).