

Spring 2013

German 8300

Romanticism, Literary Culture, and Politics: Bettina von Arnim and Her Circle

Mondays, 12:30 – 3:18
Hagerty 488

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The course focuses on a comprehensive approach to the developments and diversity of German literary texts and culture from Romanticism to Realism and is centered on Bettina von Arnim's (1785-1859) literary work, her circle of literary friends, her artistic and political activities within a European framework. Her creative period spans roughly 60 years from the late Enlightenment to the literary and political activities of *Junges Deutschland* and the Forty-Eighters. Topics include: auto/biographical writing, letters and correspondences, issues of periodization (Sensibility, Storm and Stress, Classicism, Romanticism and beyond), folk literature and fairy tales, the iconic Goethe, the political salon, literary and cultural politics in the 1840s; the revolution of 1848; American Transcendentalists and Germany (Bettina von Arnim, Wilhelm + Alexander von Humboldt, Goethe); Reception of German Romanticism.



Selected texts by: Bettina von Arnim; Karoline von Günderrode, Sophie von La Roche, Clemens Brentano, Achim von Arnim, Goethe (*Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* (Mignon episodes); Grimm: *Kinder- und Hausmärchen*; Heine and others. - All texts are available on-line (zeno.org; Gutenberg.de), in our library, and/or at amazon.de for purchase.