The Philosophy of Poetic Language

In this course we will discuss important philosophical views of poetic language in the German tradition as well as their ongoing influence on contemporary theories of language and literature.

All readings will be made available on Carmen in German and English. Discussions in German or English, depending on participants’ wishes and subject matter. No knowledge of German is required; graduate students from departments other than GLL are very welcome.

Readings will include:
- Herder, “The Origin of Language”
- Novalis, “Monologue” Schleiermacher, Hermeneutics and Criticism (sel.); Dilthey
- Wittgenstein, Philosophical Investigations (sel.)
- Heidegger, On the Way to Language (sel.)
- Frege, “Sinn und Bedeutung”
- Hamacher, “95 Theses on Philology”
- Josef Stern, “Figurative Language”

Course requirements:
10% participation
20% short weekly assignments
20% oral presentation
50% final paper