

The University of Toronto

INTELLECTUAL HISTORY: HERDER AND GERMANY

German 410H / Fall 2010

Instructor:	JOHN NOYES	Dept:	German
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Hours:	TBA	Tel.:	419-926-2344

Class meets on **Wednesdays at 4:10**

DESCRIPTION

Johann Gottfried Herder (1745-1803) was one of the most influential figures of the 18th century – and has proven to be one of the most widely misunderstood. His seminal works on language paved the way to a re-thinking of how society is constituted. His conception of history opened the doors for the historicist movements of the 19th and 20th centuries. His theories of culture and nation offered a novel way of thinking about minor cultures and their literatures. His contributions provided the ground work for the Sturm und Drang movements, and, arguably, for German Romanticism. And the challenges he presented to the early Goethe continued for many years to direct the interests of the famous poet. In this course we will familiarize ourselves with the thought of Herder, asking where his ideas come from and how they influenced the thought of subsequent generations.

REQUIREMENTS

Students participating in this course will be required to attend class regularly and participate actively in classroom discussions. You should read the prescribed texts before the relevant class meetings, and complete assigned work on time. You will also be required to complete two short papers and one term paper.

Attendance and active participation	10%
Two short papers	40%
Term paper on topic of short papers	50%

Attendance and participation: This course is evaluated according to your readings, written papers, and classroom discussion. You will also gain points for coming regularly, punctually and well-prepared to class. That means having completed the week's reading, and submitting essays on time. Late essays will not be accepted without a medical certificate.

Short Paper 1: This paper will outline, in note form, a central problem in one or two of the prescribed texts. It will state the question you wish to address, the text (or texts) you intend to look at, and will give an indication of the importance of the problem you are addressing. You will also name three reference works (articles or books, NOT online sources) you will be consulting.

Your paper will be two to three pages long, printed double-spaced Times New Roman. **Due 6 October.**

Short Paper 2: This paper will also be in note form, and will build on the first paper. It will concentrate on the reference works you named in the first paper and will sketch the position they take on the question at hand. Your paper will be three pages long, printed double-spaced Times New Roman. **Due 13 October.**

Term Paper: This is a paper written on the topic of your short paper. You will begin your paper by explaining the problem, then setting forth how you intend to address it. You will make reference to the text(s) to support your ideas. And you will make reference to at least one article on the text(s) in question. I will hold a research workshop early in the term to explain how to find this material. Your essays will be between 1,500 and 2,000 words printed double-spaced Times New Roman. After I have graded your essay you have the option of re-writing and re-submitting it. **Due 17 November.**

MATERIALS

[Instructor: Please provide list of central texts/films/etc. to be dealt with in your class. Mention if students are supposed to buy materials.]

CALENDAR

Sept. 15	Introduction: Herder's projects and challenges Text: Journal meiner Reise
Sept. 22	The question of literary criticism Text: Critische Wällder (extracts), Literaturbriefe
Sept. 29	The problem of language Text: The Origin of Language
Oct. 6	Herder and the origins of Sturm und Drang Text: Von deutscher Art und Kunst
Oct. 13	Herder and Goethe: Sturm und Drang and Empfindsamkeit Text:
Oct. 20	The problem of religion Text: Gott. Einige Gespräche
Oct. 27	The problem of history Text: Auch eine Philosophie der Geschichte
Nov. 3	The question of anthropology Text: Ideen zur Philosophie der Geschichte
Nov. 10	Writing the history of the present Text: Briefe zur Beförderung der Humanität
Nov. 17	Beyond Herder: Goethe's project

Nov. 24 Beyond Herder: the limits of metaphysics
Dec. 1 Beyond Herder: the limits of historicism