

Fall Semester 2005  
Dr. Martin Kagel  
GRMN 8540 *Literature, the  
Military, and Nationalism in  
Germany, 1740-1815*  
247 Student Learning Center  
Monday 2:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Office: 207 Joseph E. Brown Hall  
Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
(or by appointment)  
Tel.: 542-2446 or  
542-3663 (departmental office)  
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Texts: \* Jakob Michael Reinhold Lenz *Die Soldaten*  
\* Gotthold Ephraim Lessing *Minna von Barnhelm*  
\* Heinrich von Kleist *Die Hermannsschlacht*  
\* Gerhard Wahrig *Deutsches Wörterbuch*  
\* Reader  
*Books are available at the University Bookstore. A copy of the reader will be placed in room 203.*

### Course Description

The notion of the German Enlightenment usually evokes serene settings of inspired intellectual pursuit, an emerging literary and bourgeois social culture, and the advancement of reason, rather than of the Enlightenment's darker side of marching soldiers, howitzer fire, and battlefield slaughter. In many ways, however, the institution of the military dominated eighteenth-century life and permeated every segment of society, from violent recruitment campaigns and constant warfare to brutal taxation and threats to bourgeois morality.

Given the its significance in eighteenth-century social, political, and economic life, it comes as no surprise that many well-known German writers of the time had a direct connection to the military, from army service as officers or common soldiers to secretarial or administrative positions. These authors also made the military the subject of numerous literary and theoretical works. In their depictions of war and post-war society they addressed issues ranging from individual heroism and the thrill of warfare to social injustice and revolutionary politics, and even though they often took a critical stance, they generally saw themselves as parties to given campaigns rather than standing in distinct opposition to the military.

In this seminar we will explore the complex interchange between Enlightenment thought, military practice, and the literary imagination in eighteenth-century Germany. We will examine both how warfare and the military as an institution are represented in eighteenth-century German literature and how German literati sought to influence military affairs through their fictional and theoretical writings, sometimes even in person. As we probe the topical, structural, and rhetorical links that connect these seemingly very different realms, we will also discuss the critical role this connection assumes in the context of an emerging German nationalism and the discourse on national identity.

## Course Requirements

In the course of the seminar you will be required to submit 2 book reviews on books of your choice, but preferably related to the topic of your research paper. Models for reviews will be provided and discussed in class. Your final assignment is a research paper of about 12-15 pages in length. The paper should focus on one or more of the texts discussed in class and should include substantial research on the topic you chose to explore. Details regarding the different kinds of requirements will be discussed in class.

## Academic Honesty

Academic Honesty is a prerequisite for all interaction between teachers and students in a university environment. Therefore, I will strictly and without exception enforce the University of Georgia's academic honesty policy. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, acts of plagiarism (such as quoting or paraphrasing without proper documentation of the source) and unauthorized assistance (such as copying answers from someone else or using someone else's work). In order to view UGA's entire academic honesty policy and more extensive definitions of the terms above, please go to [www.uga.edu/ovpi](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi) and follow the links provided.

### Grade distribution:

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 2 Book Reviews (3-4 pp.)     | 30% (15% x 2) |
| Class Participation          | 20 %          |
| Research Paper (12 - 15 pp.) | 50 %          |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>100 %</b>  |

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## Syllabus

### I. The Institution of the Military

08/22 Politics of Enlightenment

Immanuel Kant "Beantwortung der Frage: Was ist Aufklärung?" (reader)

Excerpt from Friedrich Schiller *Kabale und Liebe* (reader)

Scenes from "The Patriot" and "Barry Lyndon"

08/29 Harsh Realities

Excerpt from Johann Gottfried Seume *Mein Leben* (reader)

Ulrich Bräker *Lebensgeschichte und Natürliche Ebentheuer des Armen Mannes im Tockenburg* (reader)

09/05 – Labour Day Holiday –

09/12 Military Phantasies

Jakob Michael Reinhold Lenz *Die Soldaten*

Bernd Alois Zimmermann's Adaptation for Opera

09/19 Gender and the Nation  
*Die Soldaten*, cont.  
Jakob Michael Reinhold Lenz "Über die Soldatenehen" (reader)

## II. The Seven Years' War

09/26 A New Patriotism  
Thomas Abbt "Vom Tod fürs Vaterland" (reader)  
Ewald Christian von Kleist *Cissides und Paches* (reader)

10/03 Ewald Christian von Kleist *Briefe an J.W.L. Gleim* (reader)  
Ewald Christian von Kleist *Gedichte* (reader)

10/10 The Twofold Character  
Johann Wilhelm Ludwig Gleim *Kriegslieder eines preussischen Grenadiers* (reader)  
Anna Louisa Karsch *Gedichte* (reader)

10/17 Exploring Heroism  
Gotthold Ephraim Lessing *Philotas* (reader)

10/24 War and Its Discontents  
Gotthold Ephraim Lessing *Minna von Barnhelm*

## III. Revolution

10/31 Spring in Warsaw  
Johann Gottfried Seume *Einige Nachrichten über die Vorfälle in Polen im Jahre 1794* (reader)

**Book Review #2 due, Wednesday 10/26**

11/07 Revolutions  
Friedrich Christian Laukhard *Leben und Schicksale von ihm selbst beschrieben* (reader)

11/14 Mainz in Autumn  
Johann Wolfgang Goethe *Campagne in Frankreich; Belagerung von Mainz* (reader)

## IV. Inventing the Nation

11/21 Theory of Nationalism  
Excerpt from Eric Hobsbawm/Terence Ranger *The Invention of Tradition* (reader)  
Excerpt from Benedict Anderson *Imagined Communities* (reader)  
Excerpt from Otto Dann *Nation und Nationalismus in Deutschland 1770-1990* (reader)

11/28 A Past Imagined  
Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock *Herrmanns Tod* (reader)

12/05 Partisan Warfare

Heinrich von Kleist *Die Hermannsschlacht*

Research papers are due on Thursday, December 15, 2005