At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the philosopher and poet Friedrich von Schiller asked “Germany? But where is it? I cannot find any such country.” The premise of this course is that such questions were applicable for the entire period we are studying. We will spend the course exploring how the search for meaning, in the broadest sense, has shaped a “German” history marked by supreme accomplishment as well as unprecedented violence, national unity as well as fragmentation. All required reading, will be available for purchase at the Underground Textbook Exchange. Required reading will also be on reserve at Helen C. White.

Course Requirements
Students are expected to attend all lectures and discussion sections. Attendance and participation in discussion sessions will be graded. Assignments consist of one four-page paper (due Oct. 2) and one six-page paper (Nov. 6). There is also a take-home final exam (Dec. 16; maximum ten pages). Papers and exams will be responses to pre-circulated questions. There may be additional short writing assignments as part of the discussion grade. Grading is determined as follows:Discussion=20%; Four-page paper=20%; Six-page paper=25%; Take-home final=35%

Required Reading
Herman Hesse, Demian. HarperPerennial.
Christopher Browning, Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland. HarperCollins.
Gunter Grass, Two States--One Nation? Harcourt.

Course Schedule

Preliminaries
Sept. 2 Introduction
Sept. 4 Germany? But where is it?
Reading: Retallack, 1-17, 264-75

Imperial Germany
Sept. 9/11 The Contingent Appearance of “Germany,” 1850-71
Reading: Retallack, ch. 1-3

Sept. 16/18 National Unification and Anxiety, 1871-90
Reading: Retallack, ch. 4–6

Sept. 23/25  Powerhouse on the Edge, 1890-1914
Reading: Retallack, ch. 7-9

Sept. 30/Oct. 2  Origins of World War I
Reading: Retallack, ch. 10-11

Oct. 2.  First paper due

World War I and the Weimar Republic
Oct. 7/9  Storm of Steel: World War I
Reading: Hesse, entire

Oct. 14/16  Weimar Republic: Hot and Cool
Reading: Gay, ch. 1-3

Oct. 21/23  Weimar Republic: Small Successes, Big Failures
Reading: Gay, ch. 4–6

Nazism and the Holocaust
Oct. 28/30  Hitler’s Will to Power
Reading: Mosse, chs. 1-5

Nov. 4/6  The National Socialist Dictatorship
Reading: Mosse, chs. 6-11

Nov. 6  Second paper due

Nov. 11/13  Ordinary Men and Willing Executioners: The Holocaust
Reading: Browning, entire

Germany? But what is it?
Nov. 18/20  Germany Dismembered and Occupied
Reading: A Woman in Berlin, 1-133

Nov. 25  Cold War Division and Reconstruction
Reading: A Woman in Berlin, 134–261

Nov. 27-30  Thanksgiving Recess

Dec. 2/4  Two Germanys, at least…
Reading: Plenzdorf, entire

Dec. 9/11  Reunification?
Reading: Grass, entire

Dec. 16  Take-home Final Exam Due, 10-12