The Age of Youth: Youth Culture in late 19th and Early 20th Century Europe
History 500
Fall 2005

Yotam Hotam  hotam@wisc.edu
W 3:30-5:30 (5257 Humanities)
Office Hours: W 2:00-3:30 (4265 Humanities, Phone 263-1835)

Course Description
One of the intriguing phenomenon representative of Central European Culture in the late 19th and early 20th century, is the emergence of Youth Movements. The young person of the German Youth Movement became the bearer of the ‘promethean fire’ against the ‘old world’ and the protagonist of the rebellion against the parents’ generation. The appearance of the German Youth Movement can be seen as an example of the way in which modern experience became bound up with the notion of ‘being young,’ and as well as a symbol of the shift from an ‘adult’ oriented society to a ‘youth’ oriented one.

In this course, we will examine the appearance of the German Youth Movement, while comparing it to the parallel appearance of the English Scouts. We will further discuss the idea of ‘being young’ as a modern strategy and its possible broader implications to our understanding of European culture of that era.

Required Readings
Aschheim, Steven E., The Nietzsche Legacy in Germany, (Berkeley, 1992).
Scholem, Gershom, From Berlin to Jerusalem, Memories of my Youth, (Jerusalem 1988).

Requirements
1. Participation (40%).
2. Preliminary Drafts of Term Paper (30%).
   a. Bibliography (5%) due on October 5.
   b. Review of Progress (5%) due on October 19.
   c. Thesis Statement and Outline (10%) due on November 2.
   d. Preliminary Draft (10%) due on November 23.
3. Term paper (30%) due on December 21.

Sep. 7. Introductory Meeting

Part I. Social and Cultural Background

Sep. 14. The German Cultural Sphere

Sep. 21. Modernity and the Crisis of Culture

**Sep 28. Romanticism, Anti-Rationalism, Nietzscheanism, Heresy**


**Part II. Youth Culture**

**Oct. 5 The German Youth Movement**


**Oct. 12 Culture, Sexuality, Secular-Theology**


**Oct. 19 Student Groups as Youth Groups?**

Mosse, *The Crisis*, 190-203.

**Oct 26. Jewish Youth**

Ofer Nur, ‘Hashomer Hatzair’s Aesthetic of Anarchism and the Tragic Vision of the World’ [Manuscript].

**Nov. 2. Comparative Case Study: The English Scouts**


**Part III. Youth as a Strategy**
Nov. 9 Politization of Youth
Mosse, The Crisis, 237-311
Stachura, Peter D. Nazi Youth in the Weimar Republic, (Oxford/Santa Barbara, 1975), 1-70.

November 16. ‘Being Young’ as a Metaphor
Scholem, Gershom, From Berlin to Jerusalem, Memories of my Youth, (Jerusalem 1988), Ch. 9-10.

Part IV. Term Paper
Nov. 30. Preliminary Draft Due
December 7. Class Presentations

RECOMMENDED READINGS
McGarth, William J., Dionysian Art and Popular Politics in Austria, (New Haven, 1974).
Mosse, George L., *The Culture of Western Europe*, (Chicago, 1974).

-------- *The Culture of Western Europe: The 19th and 20th Century*, (Boulder, 1988).


