It is difficult to overstate the impact of the French Revolution (1789–1799) on the subsequent development of political thought, philosophy, and literature across Europe in the 19th and 20th century. In this class we will concentrate primarily on the reaction to the events of the Revolution by 19th-century German thinkers and literary authors. We will investigate what the reception of the Revolution in Germany has to tell us not just about it as an historical event, but also more generally about key problems concerning community and individual, aesthetics and politics, and the emergence of the modern nation-state. Readings will include texts by Immanuel Kant, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Schiller, Friedrich Hölderlin, G.W.F. Hegel, Georg Büchner, Johann Nestroy, and Peter Weiss. All readings and class discussion will be in German.