



German 793A: German Expressionism and Its Cinematic Legacy Film / Literature / Poetry / Music / Dance / Painting / Architecture (Conducted in English)

Instructor: Barton Byg / University of Massachusetts Amherst / Fall 2010

Open to graduate students; grad film studies certificate curriculum

(Advanced undergrads and those interested in a German-language section, please contact instructor)

Meetings T and Th, 11:15 - 12:30

Screenings / Slide Lectures / Guest Lectures (evening TBA)

Professor Barton Byg

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Course Description: German Expressionism is the most influential form of modernism in the arts produced by German culture in the 20th Century. The course will concentrate primarily on films which have become part of the canon of this movement, but will also give substantial attention to other arts: drama, dance, painting and architecture, music, poetry and prose. In addition, we will consider the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of Expressionism, its relation to historical reality (WWI, leftist movements, Nazism, urbanism and mass culture, etc.), and its legacy after 1945, for example in "Abstract Expressionism," comic book art, film noir and horror cinema, the "New German Cinema," and in contemporary phenomena such as the Broadway musical "Spring Awakening," animation and neo noir. **Recommended prior reading:** Kracauer, *From Caligari to Hitler*; Eisner, *The Haunted Screen*; Pinthus, *Menschheitsdämmerung* (*Dawn of Humanity*).

(Illus.: Ernst Stern design for Waxworks, 1924)