Masterpieces of German Cinema

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From its inception German cinema has been impressive, distinctive, and influential. This course, taught in English, introduces students to great works of German film from the wake of World War I and the beginning of the Weimar Republic to the present day. The two-fold focus is historical and aesthetic. Students gain an appreciation of the fascinating complexities of German culture and history, including the ways in which German films have reflected contemporary issues, often indirectly, and some of the distinctive features of German film. In addition, we conduct close interpretations of the films, with attention not only to themes but also to film as an art form, including the ways in which film expresses meaning indirectly, by integrating genre and narrative form as well as film-specific dimensions such as setting, lighting, camera work, sound, and editing. The course will be student-centered, with considerable focus on discussion.

Designed for German and FTT majors as well as students seeking to satisfy their University Requirement in the Fine Arts, the course may also interest history majors and others interested in a broad-ranging liberal arts course.