All readings and discussion in English.

The most widespread association people have with German-Jewish culture is undoubtedly the Holocaust, the cataclysm that brought this culture to an end. But if we remember only the Holocaust, we forget what this extraordinarily creative tradition contributed to Jewish, German, and world culture. For 150 years—between the late 1700s and the rise of the National Socialists to power in 1933—Jews in Germany and German-speaking lands produced a body of works and ideas that have left an indelible mark on our modernity. An astonishing number of the salient currents in modern Jewish life have their origins in Germany. The Jewish Enlightenment began in Berlin at the end of the 18th century with the great Berlin philosopher Moses Mendelssohn. It was a Viennese playwright and journalist, Theodor Herzl, who invented political Zionism at the turn of the 19th to the 20th century. It was a Viennese Jewish doctor, a contemporary of Herzl’s—Sigmund Freud—who invented psychoanalysis. In this course, we will explore some of the most innovative German-Jewish contributions to German, Jewish, and world culture by figures, in addition to those already mentioned, such as Hannah Arendt, Martin Buber, Heinrich Heine, Franz Kafka, Karl Marx, Charlotte Salomon, Else Lasker-Schüler, Arthur Schnitzler, and Rahel Varnhagen. Course readings will include prose literature, poetry, philosophy, political theory, theology, psychoanalysis, painting, and cinema.

Professor Sven-Erik Rose TR 10:30-11:50 am 147 Olson