

## NEW COURSE OFFERING!



### **GERMAN WRITERS CONFRONT FASCISM**

German 350 – Professor Hammond

World War II had finally come to an end. Germany had been utterly defeated in a conflict that had left her in ruins, many of her cities almost completely destroyed. Millions of German men had been sent off to a war from which many would never return. The sheer horror and magnitude of the Holocaust had led Germans to ask *How could this possibly have happened here?*, a question whose answer remains, six decades later, the subject of much public debate that has left a indelible mark on the collective conscience of an entire people.

How does a nation like Germany come to terms with the trauma of its past? What role, if any, can art and literature play in this endeavor? Upon what basis could a new German identity be created? In 1947, a group of mostly young German writers gathered to confront these questions. For the next two decades, they would meet every year to discuss and share their work. Several of these writers would eventually attain worldwide recognition (such as recent Nobel laureate Günter Grass). What all of them shared, however, was a profound commitment to a new nation, founded upon the ideals of peace, tolerance and genuine democracy. Only in this way could the younger generation hope to atone for the violence, bigotry and organized savagery that had been the Third Reich.

***Note: Class will be in English, as will all reading materials. Film will be incorporated into this course, as well.***