One may argue with a strong degree of historical justification that existential philosophy was born when a young Søren Kierkegaard attended the lectures of the venerable German Idealist, Friedrich Schelling, in 1841. While listening to the older man speak about his “Philosophy of Revelation,” the Dane was struck by what he felt to be the lack of attention given to lived experience. Kierkegaard reacted to his disappointment by embarking on an authorship dedicated to understanding how modern individuals experienced the particularities of life in a world without certainty. Thus, it can be argued that modern existential thought was born while traveling back and forth on a road that connects Copenhagen to Berlin. This course explores the connection between German and Scandinavian culture through the lens of an existential tradition expressed in philosophy, literature, drama, the visual arts and cinema, all of which are concerned with “life” as it is articulated through experience. The course includes texts written by Søren Kierkegaard, Meïr Goldschmidt, Henrik Ibsen, Friedrich Nietzsche, Knut Hamsun, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Franz Kafka. We will also view a film written and directed by Ingmar Bergman and view paintings by various artists from Germany and Scandinavia. This course fulfills both the Arts and Letters and International Cultures requirements.