

## [introduction]

this is a course about history (terror) and culture (art/lit)

--how do they intersect?

let's consider a statement made by avant-garde composer karlheinz stockhausen on 16 sept  
2001

--WTC attack was "greatest work of art that is possible in the whole cosmos."

--drew parallels with his work as a composer:

"you have ppl so concentrated on one performance, and then 5000 ppl are  
dispatched into eternity, in a single moment... I couldn't do that. in comparison  
with that, we're nothing as composers."

--accd to stockhausen, a similar impulse

exists behind the act of terror and the work of art:

"what happned spiritually [on 9.11], this jump out of security, out of the self-  
evident... this sometimes also happens in art... or it is worthless."

lets explore the interconnection bw art and terrorism.

Romantics tended to associate art and violence.

Romanticism. [what is? when?]

reaction to an emergent industrial society

romantics associated art with the idea of

a terrifying awakening that would undo the west's

ec. and pol. order

writers and artists seek to shock, to transgress the everyday.

wordsworth yearned for 'extraordinary incident' to prod us out of 'savage torpor.'

The anarchist and terrorist mvts that

developed during the same period

were similiarly motivated.

These mvts countered industrial society

... wanted to induce shock to bring about  
new state of affairs