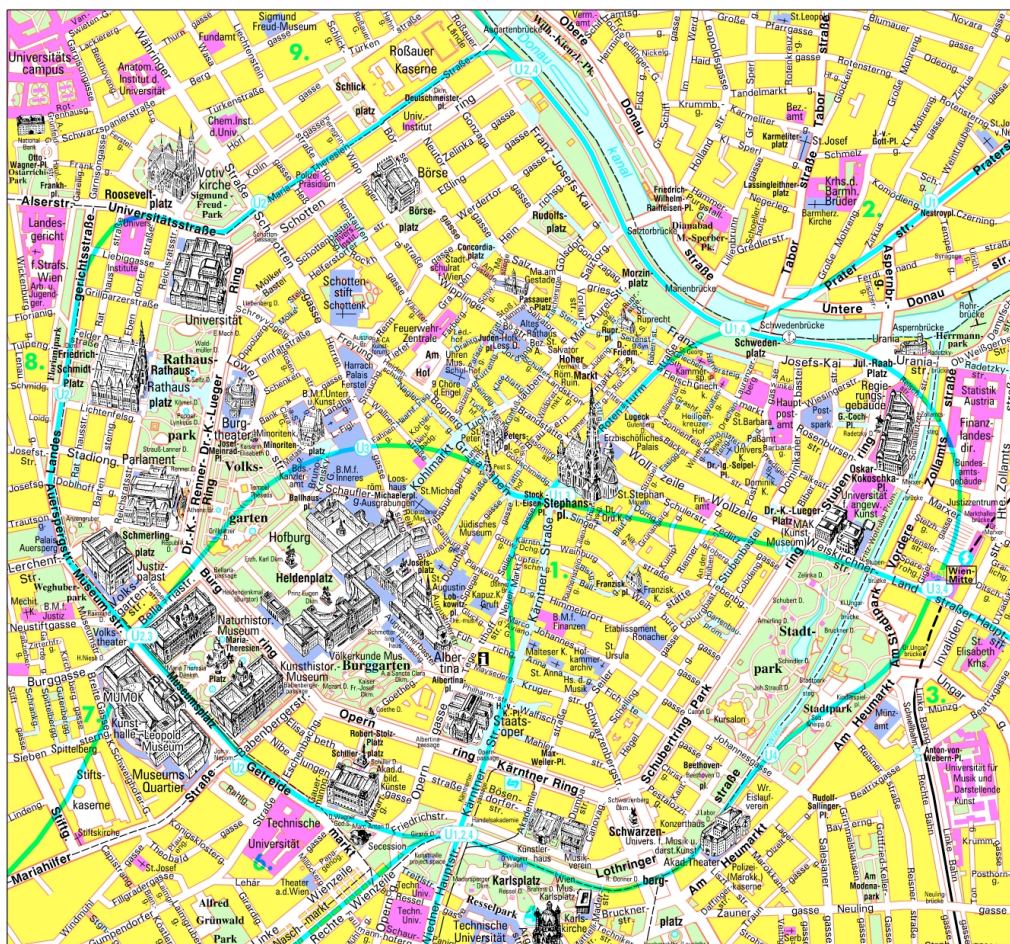


TX 202 Faculty-Led Travel Seminar to Vienna, Austria

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The city of Vienna and the surrounding region will be our classroom during a ten-day travel seminar to Austria in January 2010. This seminar focuses on central European history and culture from the Habsburg Empire to the present with special attention to the complex interplay between art and politics. Students will explore sites that bear witness to the often volatile clashes between Christians, Muslims, and Jews at the crossroads of Europe, visit baroque palaces that demonstrate imperial ambitions in architecture, attend performances that highlight Vienna's status as a center of classical music, examine fin de siècle art works up close to study modernism, follow in Freud's footsteps to trace the birth of psychoanalysis, enjoy the splendor of Viennese coffeehouses and the tradition of urban social space and intellectual life, visit memorial sites to the Holocaust and explore Austria's controversial relationship to its National Socialist past, and visit the United Nations to observe Vienna's post-war development as an international diplomatic center.

Course Overview

“Waltz, Coffeehouses, Dreams: Culture and History in Vienna, Austria” is a two-course learning experience combining meetings and readings on campus during the fall 2009 semester and a field trip with meetings and lectures in Austria during January 2010 break.

TX201 is the classroom segment of the experience. Students do not have to register for TX202 in order to take this course. TX 201 and TX 202 taken together as a 3-credit experience can count toward the German major and minor and the Cultural World requirement of the IA major and minor.

Course Expectations

Aims: The course aims to familiarise students with some of the key themes in central European history and culture through an intensive and interactive case study of the city of Vienna.

Grades will be based on:

- Attendance and participation at all planned activities in Austria (40%)
- Travel Journal (60%)

Students must participate fully in the course in order to receive a passing grade. This means attending pre-departure meetings, activities in Austria, and a scheduled meeting after returning from Austria. Students will be encouraged to give a presentation at Academic Festival or at a similar forum at the end of the Spring 2010.

Texts: There are no required texts for this learning experience. The instructors will rely on texts required for TX 201

Travel Journal

Keeping a travel journal is a unique opportunity to document your journey and judge its value in concrete and personal terms. Writing a journal allows you to preserve your memories and reflect upon your experience as it is happening and then later as you revisit the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes in your mind and refine your writing for the final version. Each entry you make in Vienna is part of a process that transforms lived experience into language and image. The final product will be a polished version of your best journal entries, so that your travel journal represents a coherent articulation of all the information, impressions, and memories you collected during your time in Vienna.

A travel journal should combine your immediate reaction to things, places, and people and an analysis of pertinent information learned from the pre-departure course and on-site. It will reflect your thoughts about what you are experiencing and helps you to integrate the field studies component (the "hands on" knowledge and experience gained from going to Vienna) with the material learned in the classroom and during the trip. You may include sketches, quotations from things you read, your own poetic compositions, photographs, and anything else that will help you remember your feelings and impressions of the trip. Although the focus of your writing should

be on real-life experiences, the seminar's emphasis on Freud's *On Dreams* and Schnitzler's *Dream Story* lends itself to an exploration of dreams in Vienna. If you decide to be creative and explore the interaction between real and oneiric states, do so in a moderate fashion and not as a substitution for observation and analysis of reality. Please remember that a travel journey is not a diary, but a reflective writing assignment. Please do not write anything intimate. The final draft of your travel diary should consist of full paragraph entries; it requires you to polish your writing through revision and reflection.

1) Before departure. Have at least two entries, dealing with your preparations. What are you doing academically to prepare yourself? What are your expectations? What are your concerns? What places and objects are you most excited about seeing first-hand?

2) During the trip. You should write a couple of paragraphs daily. What are your first impressions? What do you like the best and the least about Viennese culture? What experiences do you find the most and the least engaging? How have your notions of Vienna changed over the course of the trip? Think about the constraints of traveling and plan to set aside some time every day to write down some impressions, make some sketches, describe some scene, incident, artifact, newly-learned fact, or reflect upon whatever has stimulated your interest.

3) After the trip. Use your notes, drawings, photographs to compose a coherent narrative that reflects upon your sojourn in Vienna. Your travel journal submitted for academic credit should be at least eight pages long, typed, and formatted according to guidelines outlined in the Skidmore Guide to Writing.

4) Evaluation. The travel journals are due on Friday, January 29, 2010. This gives you two weeks after the completion of the seminar to hand in your final travel journal. Remember that Spring classes start on Monday, January 25, 2010, so plan accordingly. Both professors will evaluate and grade the travel journals. Final grades will be based on an average of the grades submitted by both instructors.

In preparing your travel journal, you may want to consult the following resources:

1. Paul Fussell, ed. *The Norton Book of Travel*. NY: W.W. Norton, 1987.
2. <http://www.theglimpse.com/> The National Geographic program sponsoring young people writing about their experiences abroad.
3. <http://www.abroadview.org/webzine/index.htm> Abroad View Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering cross-cultural awareness. It publishes the magazine Abroad View, which highlights students' writing about study abroad.
4. http://cms.skidmore.edu/writing_guide/index.cfm Skidmore College Guide to Writing

Course Schedule

This course meets in Austria from Tuesday, January 5th to Saturday, January 16th, 2010. The instructors will schedule two separate meetings on Skidmore campus in Fall 2009 to discuss the logistics and the code of conduct for the travel experience and one follow-up meeting upon returning from Austria (dates to be determined). While Austria is a safe place to travel, travelers

should proceed with the normal care and good judgment that traveling overseas or in any large city require. A set of guidelines and a college-endorsed code of conduct will be distributed to students before the trip. Students will be required to sign the code of conduct to assure that they are familiar with, and agree to follow, the rules.

The travel schedule is subject to change. Two pre-departure meetings (dates to be determined).

Tuesday, January 5, 2010:

International Travel from NYC to Vienna, Austria

Wednesday, January 6, 2010:

Arrive in Vienna Transfer to Hotel Papageno <http://www.hotelpapageno.at/>. Introduction to Austria n Culture and History. <http://www.wien.info/article.asp?IDArticle=9010> .



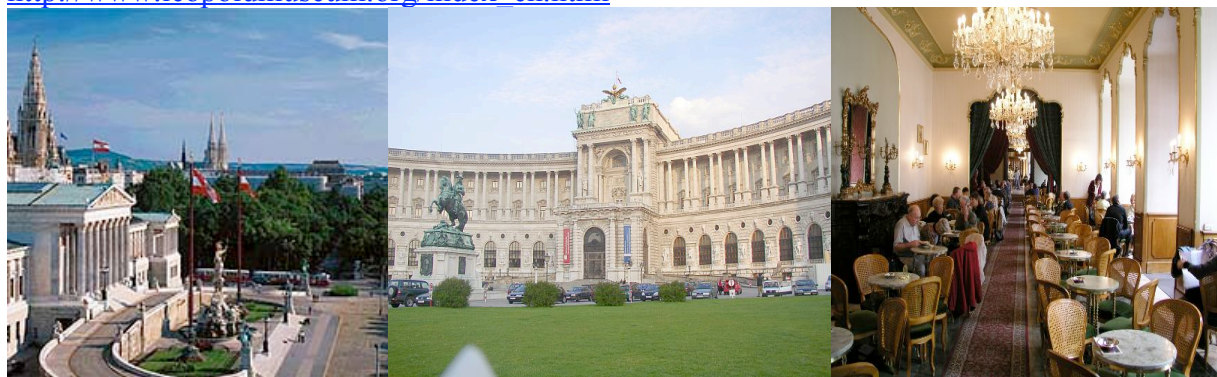
Thursday, January 7, 2010: Morning walking tour with local art history professor to downtown Vienna including the St. Stephen's Cathedral, Charles Church, and the Sezession House Art Museum (Beethoven Frieze) Afternoon tour in the Leopold Museum (Austrian Modernist masterpieces)

<http://www.stephansdom.at/data/derdom/einfuehrung/index.php>

<http://www.karlskirche.at>

http://www.secession.at/beethovenfries/geschichte_d.html

http://www.leopoldmuseum.org/index_en.html



Friday, January 8, 2010: Guided tour of Imperial Vienna: Hofburg, city hall, parliament, roman ruins, and a visit to a traditional Viennese coffee house. Meeting with university students.

<http://www.hofburg-wien.at/en/>

http://www.parlament.gv.at/EN/AP/APInhalt_E_Portal.shtml

<http://www.wien.info/article.asp?IDArticle=3860>

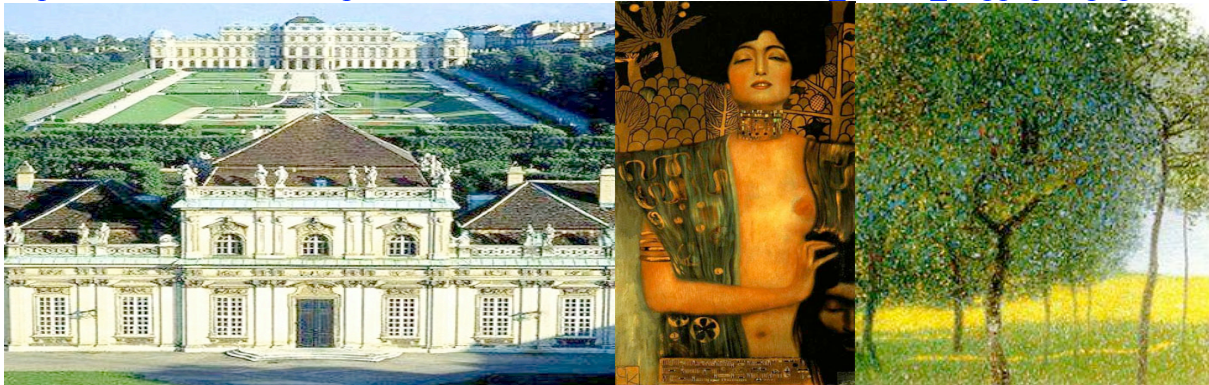


Saturday, January 9, 2010: Morning free. Lunch at Griechenbeisl, Vienna's oldest inn. Afternoon walking tour in the steps of Mozart and visit to Haus der Musik. Evening performance of classical music. In a perfect world, we would attend Mozart's opera *Die Zauberflöte* at the Vienna State Opera.

http://www.griechenbeisl.at/lang_en/page.asp/index.htm

<http://www.hdm.at/en/2.htm>

http://www.wiener-staatsoper.at/Content.Node2/home/haus/arch_aussen_stopphp11.php



Sunday, January 10, 2010: Morning Practice of the Vienna Boys' Choir, afternoon at Castle Belvedere and the Austria art collection (Klimt, Kokoschka, Schiele).

http://www.wsk.at/jart/prj3/wsk_website/main.jart?rel=en&reserve-mode=active

<http://www.belvedere.at/jart/prj3/belvedere/main.jart?rel=en>



Monday, January 11, 2010: Castle Schönbrunn and the legend of Sissi. Afternoon Lecture on the Holocaust and Vienna at Documentation Center for Austrian Resistance

<http://www.schoenbrunn.at/en/> and <http://www.wien-vienna.com/sisi.php>

<http://www.doew.at/>



Tuesday, January 12, 2010: Excursion to the monastery of Melk and the concentration camp at Mauthausen

<http://www.stiftmelk.at/englisch/index.html>

http://en.mauthausen-memorial.at/db/admin/de/index_main.php?cbereich=1&cthema=347

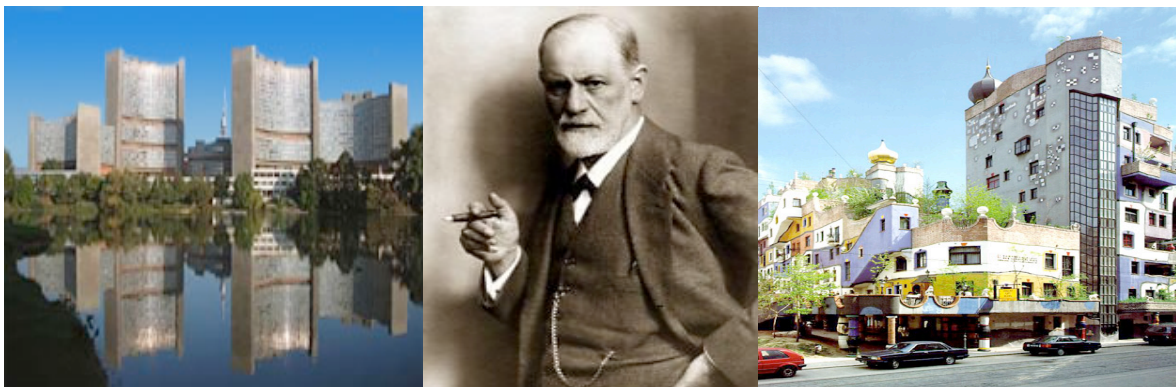


Wednesday, January 13, 2010: Art History Museum and the Spanish Riding School. Dinner and traditional entertainment at a vineyard Heuriger in Grinzing.

<http://www.khm.at/en/khm-home/>

<http://www.srs.at/index.php?id=353>

<http://www.wien.info/article.asp?IDArticle=17546>



Thursday, January 14, 2010: United Nations Offices, Freud Museum, Hundertwasser House

<http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/unvienna.html>

<http://www.freud-museum.at/e/index.html>

<http://www.hundertwasserhaus.com/>

Friday, January 15, 2010: Free day to explore the city on your own. Evening banquet to conclude the travel seminar.

<http://www.wiener-rathauskeller.at/en/index.html>

Saturday, January 16, 2010:

International Travel from Vienna to NYC

