Fall 2009 T 2:10-3:05 in BO 102 TH 2:10-3:05 in BO 380 Professor Mary-Beth O'Brien PMH 406 x5216 mobrien@skidmore.edu Office Hours: Monday 1-2, Thursday 3:30-4:30 and by appointment

# TX 201 B: The Viennese Waltz, Coffeehouse, and Dreams: Culture and History in Vienna, Austria



"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. TX201B is the classroom segment of the experience. Students do not have to register for TX202 in order to take this course. TX 201B 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 Topic: Situated on the Danube River plain near the Vienna Woods and the Carpathian foothills, Vienna is Austria's capital and home to 1.6 million inhabitants. Originally a Celtic settlement and then a Roman military and commercial center, Vienna became the capital of the Habsburg Empire and a European center of power for centuries. Although Austria has been an independent

republic since 1955, it still celebrates its imperial grandeur in historic buildings, the Sissi-cult surrounding Princess Elisabeth, the world famous Vienna boys' choir, and the dancing white Lipizzaner horses. Vienna enjoys an unparalleled musical heritage: classical composers Schubert, Strauss, Schönberg, and Berg were native sons; while Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, and Mahler chose to live and work here. The city is not only the birthplace of the waltz, coffeehouses, *Mozartkugeln*, and *Sachertorte* but also modern psychoanalysis and fin de siècle art and architecture with proponents such as O. Wagner, Klimt, Kokoschka, and Schiele. Vienna boasts world-class art museums and a fascinating history, but it is also a vibrant, forward-looking city that enjoys a creative art scene and hosts many important international institutions including offices of the United Nations, OPEC, and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

### **Course Expectations**

The course aims to familiarize 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.

## **Learning Outcomes**

## Knowledge and Understanding

To provide students with a basic understanding and general knowledge about the history and culture of Austria. Themes include the history of the Habsburg Empire; Enlightened despotism; Vienna's role in the development of European Classical Music with special attention to the works of Mozart and Strauss; fin de siècle art, architecture, literature, and psychoanalysis; Austrian participation in world wars and National Socialism; the development of Austria in the Second Republic as a neutral country, European Union member, and host to international organizations (UN, OPEC, IAEA).

#### Critical Skills

- To develop critical and comparative reading skills by introducing students to both primary and secondary sources.
- To enhance ability of students to read and think critically about scholarly writing by examining a variety of texts from different theoretical and interpretative perspectives.
- To develop better oral and written communication skills as they pertain to the study of the history and culture in Austria.
- To foster an awareness of the importance of debate in scholarly writing and knowledge.

#### Course Grades will be based on:

- Blank maps of Vienna, Austria, and Europe (10%)
- Participation and attendance at class meetings (20%)
- Homework Assignments (20%)
- A group presentation (20%)
- Final Exam (30%)

## **Required Texts and Art and Musical Works:**

Art works by Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, Oskar Kokoska, Friedensreich Hundertwasser Bachmann, Ingeborg. "Eyes to Wonder." *Three Paths to the Lake*. Trans. Mary Fran Gilbert. New York: Holmes & Meier, 1997. pp. 75-94. ISBN: 0841910715,

Schorske, Carl E. *Fin-de-Siecle Vienna: Politics and Culture*. New York: Vintage, 1980. ISBN: 0394744780

Freud, Sigmund. *On Dreams*. Intro. Peter Gay. New York: W. W. Norton, 1990. ISBN: 039300144X

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus. *The Magic Flute*. 1791. (Die Zauberflöte)

Schnitzler, Arthur. *Night Games: And Other Stories*. Trans. Margret Schaefer. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2003. ISBN 1566635063

Strauss, Johann. *The Blue Danube*. 1867. (An der schönen blauen Donau) Trakl, Georg. Selected Poems.

## **Required Viewing:**

Mozart's *The Magic Flute* will be shown on Thursday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in BO 380 and again on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm in BO 380. Students are required to attend one film showing.

## **Selected Readings from:**

Beller, Steven. *A Concise History of Austria*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007. Girard, René. "Anorexia." *The Body Aesthetic: From Fine Art to Body Modification*. Ed. Tobin Anthony Siebers. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P, 2000. [on Sissi]

Grafe, Christoph, Franziska Bollerey, and Charlotte Van Wijk. *Cafés and Bars: The Architecture of Public Display.* Routledge, 2007. ISBN 0415363284

Hamann, Brigitte. *Hitler's Vienna: A Dictator's apprenticeship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Hitler, Adolf. Mein Kampf. Educa Books, 2006. ISBN 817224164X

Kluger, Ruth. Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered. The Feminist Press, 2003

Lorenz, Helmut. "The Imperial Hofburg: The Theory and Practice of Architectural Representation in Baroque Vienna," *State and Society in Early Modern Austria*, ed. Charles W. Ingrao (West Lafayette, Ind.: Purdue University Press, 1994).

Till, Nicholas. Mozart and the Enlightenment: Truth, Virtue, and Beauty in Mozart's Operas. New York: W. W. Norton, 1995.

Wauchope, Mary. "Sissi revisited." Margarete Lamb-Faffelberger, ed. *Literature, Film, and Culture Industry in Contemporary Austria*. NY: Peter Lang, 2002. ISBN 978-0-8204-4904-3

Yaraman, Sevin H. *Revolving Embrace: The Waltz as Sex, Steps, and Sound.* Pendragon Press, 2002. ISBN 1576470431

#### Course Schedule

Week 1	
Thursday, Sept. 10	Homework: Read Derek Beales, "Was Joseph
	II an Enlightened Despot?" in Enlightenment
Introduction to the Course	and Reform in Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp.
	262-286 and Nicholas Till, "Vienna and the
Group work with Maps	Enlightenment," in Mozart and the
	Enlightenment, pp. 85-96 [Handouts]. Prepare
Geography, Climate, Language, Religion,	the discussion questions.
Demographics of Austria	
	All students must sign up for a presentation
	topic by Thursday, Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> .
Week 2	
Tuesday, Sept. 15	Homework: Visit the web sites for the castles
	Hofburg <a href="http://www.hofburg-wien.at/en/">http://www.hofburg-wien.at/en/</a> and
A Brief Outline of the Hapsburg Empire (ca	Schönbrunn <a href="http://www.schoenbrunn.at/en/">http://www.schoenbrunn.at/en/</a> .
1278-1918)	Read Helmut Lorenz, "The Imperial Hofburg:
	The Theory and Practice of Architectural
Enlightened Despotism – Maria Theresa and	Representation in Baroque Vienna," in Charles
Joseph II.	Ingasro's State and Society in Early Modern

	T
	Austria. Prepare study questions. All students must sign up for a presentation topic by Thursday, Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup> .
Thursday, September 17	Homework: Watch Mozart's <i>The Magic Flute</i> . Read "Die Zauberflöte," in Nicholas Till,
Sign-up for Presentation Topics	"Vienna and the Enlightenment," in <i>Mozart</i> and the Enlightenment, pp. 270-319 [Handout]
National Identity and Architecture.	and prepare the discussion questions.
The Building of Imperial Vienna (the Hofburg, Schönbrunn).	Students are required to attend one film showing of Mozart's <i>The Magic Flute</i> . It will be shown tonight (Thursday, Sept. 17 <sup>th)</sup>
Mozart's <i>Magic Flute</i> will be shown tonight at 7pm in BO 380.	at 7pm in BO 380 and again on Monday, September 21st at 7pm in BO 380.
We	ek 3
Tuesday, Sept. 22  Mozart, The Magic Flute	Homework: Read Mary Wauchope, "Sissi revisited," and René Girard, "Anorexia" [Handouts]. Visit the Vienna tourist website at <a href="http://www.wien-vienna.com/sisi.php">http://www.wien-vienna.com/sisi.php</a> to review the myths surrounding Sissi.
Thursday, Sept. 24 Elisabeth, Empress of Austria (1837-1896) The Sissi cult	Homework: Listen to Strauss' <i>The Blue Danube</i> and read excerpt from Sevin Yaraman, <i>Revolving Embrace: The Waltz as Sex, Steps, and Sound</i> [Handout].
Excerpts from the film classic Sissi	
We	ek 4
Tuesday, Sept. 29  Johann Strauss and the Waltz. <i>The Blue Danube</i> (1867)  Tentative: guest lecture by Professor Tom Denny	Homework: Read "Setting the Stage for Modernity: The Cosmos of the Coffeehouse," in Christoph Grafe, <i>Cafés and Bars: The Architecture of Public Display</i> . pp. 47-98 [Handout].
Thursday, October 1  The Viennese Coffeehouse Turkish Siege of Vienna, 1683 Map quiz (Austria and Europe) in class	Homework: Prepare study questions for group presentations. Materials provided by students making presentations.

We	ek 5	
Tuesday, October 6  Group Presentations on Classical Music and Coffeehouses	Homework: Read Freud, <i>On Dreams</i> and prepare study questions.	
Thursday, October 8  No Class. Professor O'Brien will be at the German Studies Association Conference in Washington, D.C.	Homework: Read Freud, <i>On Dreams</i> and prepare study questions.	
We	ek 6	
Tuesday, October 13  Träume sind Schäume: Dreams are froth	Homework: Review works on reserve by Klimt and Schiele. Read Schorske, Ch. 5 "Gustav Klimt." <i>Fin-de-Siecle Vienna</i> , pp. 208-278. Prepare the discussion questions.	
Sigmund Freud, On Dreams		
Thursday, October 15	Homework: Reade Schorske, Ch. 2 "The Ringstrasse," <i>Fin-de-Siecle Vienna</i> , pp. 24-	
Fin de siècle art	115. Prepare the discussion questions. View the 360 degree images of Vienna's Ringstrasse	
Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele	buildings at <a href="http://vienna.360cities.net/">http://vienna.360cities.net/</a> .	
Week 7		
Tuesday, October 20 The Ringstraße and Urban Modernism	Homework: Read Schnitzler's <i>Dream Story</i> and prepare discussion questions. Suggested viewing: <i>Eyes wide shut</i> [Stanley Kubrick,	
Otto Wagner	1999].	
Thursday, October 22	Homework: Read Schnitzler's <i>Dream Story</i> and prepare discussion questions.	
Schnitzler, Dream Story (1926)	and prepare discussion questions.	
Week 8		
Tuesday, October 27	Homework: Prepare for Group Presentations.  Materials provided by students making	
Schnitzler, <i>Dream Story</i>	presentations.	
Thursday, October 29	Homework: Read Georg Trakl 's poems "Grodek," "On the Eastern Front," and	
Group Presentations on Freud and Fin de siècle art	"Mourning" and study the art works of Oskar Kokoschka on reserve in the library.	
Map quiz of Vienna in-class		

Week 9	
Tuesday, November 3	Homework: Read excerpts from Hitler's <i>Mein Kampf</i> and Brigitte Hamann's <i>Hitler's Vienna</i> :
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand	A Dictator's Apprenticeship. Prepare study
The Collapse of the Habsburg Empire	questions.
World War I (1914-1918)	questions
Georg Trakl and Oskar Kokoschka	
Thursday, November 5	Homework: Read excerpts from Kluger's Still
	Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered.
Adolf Hitler in Vienna	
The First Republic	
The Anschluß (1938) and National Socialism	
	ek 10
Tuesday, November 10	Homework: Visit the Mauthausen Memorial at
A . I I N I C . I	http://en.mauthausen-
Austrian Jews under National Socialism	memorial.at/index open.php and prepare study
Ruth Klger, Still Alive	questions.
Thursday, November 12	Homework: Read Beller, "Austria, Inc. and
Thursday, November 12	Breaking Free, 1945-1955," in <i>A Concise</i>
Mauthausen Concentration Camp	History of Austria, pp. 249-262.
-	7 7
	ek 11
Tuesday, November 17	Homework: Prepare for debate. Materials
Tuesday, November 17	
Tuesday, November 17 Post World War II reconstruction, 1945-1955	Homework: Prepare for debate. Materials provided by students in the debate.
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Tuesday, November 17  Post World War II reconstruction, 1945-1955 Thursday, November 19	Homework: Prepare for debate. Materials provided by students in the debate.  Homework: Read Beller, "Getting Rich, 1955-1970," and "Island of the Blessed, 1970-
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Tuesday, November 17  Post World War II reconstruction, 1945-1955 Thursday, November 19  Debate: Was Austria the first victim of National Socialism?  Wee Tuesday, November 24  The Second Republic Austria's development as a neutral country	Homework: Prepare for debate. Materials provided by students in the debate.  Homework: Read Beller, "Getting Rich, 1955-1970," and "Island of the Blessed, 1970-1985" in A Concise History of Austria, pp. 262-286. Visit <a href="http://europa.eu/index_en.htm">http://europa.eu/index_en.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/unvienna.html">http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/unvienna.html</a> and prepare study questions ek 12  Homework: Visit the Hundertwasser house on line at
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Week 13		
Tuesday, December 1	Homework: Read Ingeborg Bachmann's short	
	story, "Eyes to Wonder."	
Friedensreich Hundertwasser (1928-2000)		
Thursday, December 3	Homework: Prepare for Group Presentations.	
	Materials provided by students making	
Ingeborg Bachmann, "Eyes to Wonder"	presentations.	
Week 14		
Tuesday, December 8	Homework: Prepare sample questions for the	
	final examination.	
Group presentations on Austrian literature and		
Austria today		
Thursday, December 10	Final exam will take place during finals week	
Conclusions		
Traditional Viennese Weihnachtsfeier		

The Final Examination will take place on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> in BO 380.

Travel to Vienna, Austria will take place from Tuesday, January 5 to Friday, January 15, 2010

Schöne Reise nach Wien!