# Travel Seminar to Vienna with Skidmore Faculty

For information on cost and travel logistics, contact Lisa Hobbs in OCSE at 580-5355. For course content, academic requirements, and the German major program, contact Professor O'Brien at 580-5316 mobrien@skidmore.edu or Professor Wildermuth at 580-5226 dwilderm@skidmore.edu.



"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one corner of the earth all one's lifetime." Mark Twain, The Innocents Abroad (1869) Chapter LXII



# Skidmore College

#### WALTZ, COFFEEHOUSES, DREAMS: CULTURE AND HISTORY IN VIENNA



# TX 201: FACULTY-LED TRAVEL SEMINAR TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA

**JANUARY 5-16, 2010** 

**FACULTY** 

PROFESSOR MARY-BETH O'BRIEN (mobrien@skidmore.edu)

PROFESSOR DAVID WILDERMUTH (dwilderm@skidmore.edu)

#### **Travel Seminar to Vienna**

WALTZ, COFFEEHOUSES, DREAMS: CULTURE AND HISTORY IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA is a two-course (3 credits total) learning experience combining class work and readings on campus during the Fall 2009 semester and a field trip with class work and lectures in Vienna, Austria during January break 2010.

TX 201 Faculty-Led Travel Seminar: Vienna (1 credit) is the travel segment of the experience.

TX 202B Regional Topics: Vienna (2 credits) is the on-campus segment.

Students must be registered for TX 202B in order to qualify for the travel seminar TX 201.

## Why Vienna?

Situated on the Danube River plain near the Vienna Woods and the Carpathian foothills. Vienna is Austria's capital and the 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 Havdn. 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 the offices of the United Nations, OPEC, and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

#### **Course Schedule**

This course meets on campus in Fall 2009 on Monday and Wednesday 1:25-2:20 pm as well as in Vienna January 5-16, 2010. The instructors will schedule two meetings on Skidmore campus in the Fall 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).

# Preliminary Travel Schedule Subject to change

January 5: Flight NYC to Vienna, Austria.

January 6: Arrive in Vienna. Transfer to hotel.

January 7: Morning tour of downtown Vienna including the St. Stephen's Cathedral, Kärntner Street, Charles Church, and the Sezession House Art Museum (Beethoven Frieze). Afternoon in Leopold Museum (Modernist masterpieces).

January 8: Imperial Vienna: Hofburg, city hall, parliament, roman ruins, and a visit to a traditional Viennese coffee house.

January 9: Following the steps of Mozart. Lunch at Griechenbeisl, Vienna's oldest inn. Afternoon walking tour in the steps of Mozart. Evening performance of Mozart's Zauberflöte in the Volksoper.

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

January 11: Excursion to Castle Schönbrunn.

January 12: Excursion to the monastery of Melk and the concentration camp memorial site at Mauthausen.

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

January 14: United Nations Offices, Freud Museum, Hundertwasser House.

January 15: Free day in the city to explore

January 16: Return from Vienna, Austria to NYC.

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### **Skidmore Faculty**

MARY-BETH O'BRIEN is Professor of German and Chair of Foreign Languages and Literatures. She studied at the Karl-Winter-Universität Heidelberg and Freie Universität Berlin in the FRG, Wilhelm-Pieck-Universität Rostock in the GDR, and received her Ph.D. in Germanic Languages from the University of California, Los Angeles. She teaches courses in German language, 20<sup>th</sup>-Century German literature, German Cinema, and Introduction to International Affairs. Her primary research interests are the intersections between art and politics. Her recent book, Nazi Cinema as Enchantment: The Politics of Entertainment in the Third Reich (Camden House, 2004), explores how cinema participated in the larger framework of everyday fascism.

DAVID WILDERMUTH Lecturer of German and faculty advisor for the Model European Union and Model United Nations. He is ABD in German and Russian and is completing a doctorate in Modern Languages at Middlebury College. He received an M.A. in German and a second M.A. in Political Science from Bowling Green State University and a B.A. in German with Minors in Economics and History from State University of New York College at Cortland. He has studied at the University of Salzburg, Austria; the Moscow Institute of Social and Political Studies, Russia; and the University of Tübingen, Germany. He teaches courses in German language, contemporary German and Austrian culture, and German political developments in the 20th century.

## **Anticipated Costs**

The anticipated fee for the travel seminar to Austria is \$2,800 (may fluctuate). This includes roundtrip airfare from NYC to Vienna, all ground transportation in Austria, onsite accommodations with double occupancy, 2 meals a day, medical insurance, entrance and performance fees, local guides, cultural excursions, Skidmore IA faculty onsite, and the support of Skidmore's OCSE. The fee does not include transportation to and from NYC nor personal expenses.

## **Application**

Applications are available from Professor O'Brien in PMH 406, Professor Wildermuth in PMH 405 or OCSE in Starbuck 202. Application Deadline is March 31, 2009. Applicants are required to submit a \$250 non-refundable deposit at time of application to hold their space on the program. (100% refundable if not accepted to program). This deposit will be applied to program fee.