

Humanities Seminars Program
Vienna 1900—How Politics Shaped Culture
and Created the Modern World

Fall 2018
Friday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.^[1]_[SEP]
October 5 – December 14, 2018.
Dorothy Rubel Room

Instructor:

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Seminar Content:

The seminar will explore how the political developments of the Habsburg Monarchy — the failure of liberalism after its brief period in power due to the economic crisis of the 1870s, the rise of antisemitic parties, and World War One — helped shaped the culture of Vienna, which produce works in a number of fields that were path-breaking for the modern world. We will discuss works of literature, music, art and architecture, philosophy of science, Zionism, and psychoanalysis.

The last unit of the course will examine how writers and other cultural figures dealt with the devastation of World War One and the fall of the Habsburg Empire after centuries of rule, and how all these aspects were prophetic of the worst catastrophes that the twentieth century would bring.

Readings:

For purchase:

- Carl Schorske: *Fin-de-siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture*
- Hugo von Hofmannsthal, J. McClatchy: *The Whole Difference: Selected Writings of Hugo von Hofmannsthal*
- Arthur Schnitzler, *Four Major Plays* (trans. Carl R. Mueller)

Wikipedia History of Austria: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Austria

The other course readings will be posted by Kerstin Miller by the end of August on a special Box@UA site for this course. After they are posted, Kerstin will share the link to this site with any student registered for this class.

Class schedule:

Oct. 5: Introduction

Read in the Wikipedia History of Austria: brief introduction, “Historiography”, and “Overview”, then jump ahead to “The 19th century (1815–1914)”.
Read Schorske chapter “The Transformation of the Garden”

Oct. 12: “Playboys and Aesthetes”

Read Schorske chapter “Politics and the Psyche”
Read Schnitzler “Anatol,” “La Ronde” (in Schnitzler, *Four Major Plays*)
Read Hofmannsthal poems, “Death and the Fool”, “Poetry and Life” (PDFs on Box@UA)

Oct. 19: The Crisis of the Ego I

Read excerpts from Ernst Mach, *The Analysis of Sensations* (PDF on Box@UA)
Read Hofmannsthal, “Letter of Lord Chandos” (in Hofmannsthal, *The Whole Difference*)
Read Schnitzler, “The Green Cockatoo” (in Schnitzler, *Four Major Plays*) and “Lieutenant Gustl” (PDF on Box@UA)

Oct. 26: Regeneration through Art

Read Hofmannsthal, “The Cavalier of the Rose” (Act I in *The Whole Difference*), Acts II & III PDF on Box@UA)
Watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dyuSicgCj-w>
Read McGrath article “Student Radicalism in Vienna”, then chapter on “The Metamusical Cosmos of Gustav Mahler” (PDFs on Box@UA)
Listen to Mahler’s 3rd Symphony:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xplx64LVENG>

Nov. 2: The Ringstrasse and its Critics; Gustav Klimt

Read Schorske chapter “The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism”
Read Schorske chapter “Gustav Klimt: Painting and the Crisis of the Liberal Ego”

Nov. 9: The “New Politics”, Rise of Antisemitism, Birth of Zionism

Read Schorske chapter “Politics in a New Key”
Read excerpts from Theodor Herzl, *The Jewish State* (PDF on Box@UA)

Nov. 16: The Birth of Psychoanalysis

Read Schorske chapter “Politics and Patricide”

Read excerpts from Sigmund Freud, “The Interpretation of Dreams” (PDF on Box@UA)

Nov. 30: Modernism; Karl Kraus and the Puritans

Read Schorske chapter “The Explosion in the Garden” on Kokoschka and Schönberg

Read essays by Karl Kraus (PDF on Box@UA)

Read essays by Adolf Loos (PDF on Box@UA)

Dec. 7: The Aftermath of World War One

Read in the Wikipedia History of Austria: “German Austria and the First Republic (1918–1933)”

Read Karl Kraus, “In These Great Times”, “Hans Müller in Schönbrunn,” “Bread and Lies”, excerpts from *The Last Days of Mankind* (PDFs on Box@UA)

Dec. 14: Conclusion

Read Hofmannsthal, *The Difficult Man* (In *The Whole Difference*)

Read Hofmannsthal, *The Tower* (In *The Whole Difference*)