Course Description:

This class will introduce you to historical methodology and writing by focusing on one of the richest periods in European history: fin-de-siècle Vienna. After spending several weeks on background, this course is divided into three sections. In the first, we will look at the politics of fin-de-siècle Austria-Hungary and consider the rise of nationalism and the crisis of liberalism in the Empire. In the second, we will be reading about psychoanalysis. And in the third, we will be reading, viewing and listening to artistic works from this vibrant cultural period.

In this course, we will study a wide variety of texts: novels, visual art, music, historiographical essays, and the founding texts of the discipline of psychoanalysis. In developing such a rich picture of one specific moment in European history, you will learn how to analyze and talk about diverse kinds of sources and bring these into conversation with one another. You will also develop your own writing skills, learning to effectively express your ideas in written form. By the end of the class, you will have written 15 pages of polished prose.

Prerequisites and Requirements:

There are no prerequisites for this class. Just bring a willingness to read, listen, and ask questions.

Class will meet twice a week for discussion. As you will note, 40% of your grade is based on your participation. You are expected to not only demonstrate your thoughtful engagement with the readings, but also to be respectful of your fellow classmates.

Unless otherwise noted, reading assignments are due on the Tuesday of the week in which they are listed.

You will have 3 five-page essays that you will write over the course of the semester. The due dates are marked on the syllabus. The first essay will answer one of a list of questions regarding the novel that we read in the first week. The second essay will look at Freud and his critics. And for the third, you will be comparing Schorske’s position on liberalism or aesthetics with that of one of his critics. You will turn in drafts of the first two papers one week before they are due to me and we will discuss these drafts as a group in the next class period. Rough drafts will not be graded (although you will receive comments), but the better your rough draft is, the better the final draft will be.

Your grade will be roughly determined as follows:

- 40% Discussion Participation
- 15% Paper I
- 20% Paper II
- 25% Paper III
Writing Assistance

Your ability to write clearly, coherently and eloquently is one of the most valuable skills you will work on in this class. To that end, you will be working with a writing tutor, Andrew Magrath (andrew.magrath@oberlin.edu). Andrew will be reading your paper drafts and it is required that you meet with him after you turn in your paper drafts. He will also be available for assistance and questions regarding all things related to writing.

Texts Available for Purchase

Robert Musil, The Confusions of Young Törless
Steven Beller, Rethinking Vienna 1900
Sigmund Freud, Dora
Sigmund Freud, The Interpretation of Dreams
Joseph Roth, Radetsky March
Carl Schorske, Fin-de-Siècle Vienna

Additional readings have been placed on ERes. All ERes documents are marked with an asterisk.

All required texts have also been placed on reserve.

Schedule of Readings

Setting the Stage

February 10: Introduction

February 12: Introduction to Austria-Hungary
*Barbara Jelavich, Modern Austria: Empire and Republic, pp. 29-147 (recommended—especially if you don’t know anything about Austro-Hungarian history)

February 17: Törless, pt. 1
Robert Musil, Confusions of Young Törless, pp. 1-73

February 19: Törless, pt. 2
Robert Musil, Confusions of Young Törless, pp. 73-end

Politics—Liberalism & the Rise of Nationalism and Anti-Semitism

February 24: The Decline of Liberalism
Carl Schorske, Fin-de-Siècle Vienna, pp. 116-180

February 26: Writing Discussion

March 2: The Decline of Liberalism?
Pieter Judson, “Rethinking the Liberal Legacy,” Rethinking Vienna 1900, 57-79

Draft of First Paper Due MARCH 2nd IN CLASS

March 4: Writing Discussion: Paper Drafts
Joseph Roth, *Radetzky March*, Part I (pages 1-124)

March 9: Nationalism
Joseph Roth, *Radetzky March*, Part II (pages 125-226)

March 11: Nationalism, pt. 2
Joseph Roth, *Radetzky March*, Part III (pages 227-331)

**First Paper Due, Friday BEFORE 5PM**

Psychoanalysis & Sexual Politics

March 16: Freud
Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna*, pp. 181-207
Sigmund Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams*, selections

March 18: Freud
Sigmund Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams*, selections

March 23: Freud
Sigmund Freud, *Dora*, pp. 1-84

March 25: Freud
Sigmund Freud, *Dora*, 85-124

**SPRING BREAK**

April 6: Weininger

April 8: Weininger
*Otto Weininger, *Sex and Character*, Part I: Chap. 6; Part II: Chaps. 9, 14

April 13: Mayreder

April 15: Mayreder
*Rosa Mayreder, *A Survey of the Woman Problem*, pp. 74-123; 242-275

**Culture at the fin-de-siècle**

April 20: The Aesthetic Garden (Klimt, Jugendstil & Mahler)
Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna*, pp. 208-278

April 22: The Aesthetic Garden (Klimt, Jugendstil & Mahler)
Listen to Mahler, 1st Symphony
Guest Lecture (Conservatory)

**Draft of Second Paper Due APRIL 22nd IN CLASS**

April 27: The Aesthetic Garden (Kokoschka, Schiele & Schoenberg)
Visit to Allen Art Museum

April 29: The Aesthetic Garden (Kokoschka, Schiele & Schoenberg)
Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna*, pp. 322-366

May 4: The Aesthetic Garden?
Scott Spector, “Marginalizations: Politics and Culture Beyond *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna,*” *Rethinking Vienna 1900*, 132-153

May 6: DAY OFF…but **Second Paper Due when class would have met**

May 11: Intellectuals at the Fin-de-Siècle
*Georg Lukács, “The Metaphysics of Tragedy,”* *Soul and Form*

May 13: What Next? Legacies of Fin-de-Siècle Vienna

**Final Paper Due: AT TIME OF FINAL**