

Professor Ian Reifowitz
History 332-02: The Vienna of Hitler and Freud

Georgetown University-Spring 1999
Wednesday: 4:15-5:55

This course centers on the intellectual and cultural history of 19th and early 20th century Vienna, a fertile breeding ground for the explosive ideas that have dominated this century. One cannot fully understand these ideas without examining the complex society in which they were produced. Thus, we will begin by using secondary sources to look at the political issues that roiled Austria-Hungary in order to assess how phenomena such as the rising tides of nationalism and ethnic prejudice affected the cultural and intellectual life of its central city. We will then discuss analyses offered by historians for the explosion of modern culture in Vienna. Finally, we will explore the products of Vienna's turbulent history through primary sources: the works of some of its greatest literary figures as well as writings from three of the most important cultural and political icons of the century, in an attempt to discover how these individuals reflected the environment in which they spent their formative years.

Our meetings will consist of a discussion of the readings and related issues. These discussions will require significant participation on the part of each of you. At each meeting you will hand in a very short (1-2 paragraphs, less than one full page) "reaction paper" in which you address one or two aspects of the reading you found particularly thought-provoking. These are meant to give you the opportunity to organize your thoughts before class. Please note, you must turn in a reaction paper every week, even if you miss class.

Class will begin with a 5 minute (maximum) presentation on the readings by one or two students that includes whatever they choose to emphasize, and ends with questions the student(s) would like to see discussed. In addition, you will write a 2 page book review-style analysis of one of the secondary sources (Beller, Sked, or Schorske) during the first part of the semester. On May 5, each of you will turn in a 15 page (approx.) term paper on a topic of your choice that we will discuss individually before April 1. Your grade will consist of the presentation (10%), book review (10%), overall class participation (30%), and term paper (50%).

Syllabus

January 13: Introduction

January 20: Alan Sked, The Decline and Fall of the Habsburg Empire, 1815-1918, (handout) pp.1-7, 264-269; Steven Beller, Francis Joseph, pp. 1-14, 34-234

January 27: Carl Schorske, Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture

February 3: Steven Beller, Vienna and the Jews: 1867-1938, A Cultural History

February 10: Arthur Schnitzler, The Road Into the Open

February 17: Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Death and the Fool, Electra, The Tower

February 24: Robert Musil, The Man Without Qualities, Vol. I, Ch. 1-22, 39-42, 59-62, 95-100. (pp. 3-97, 156-184, 253-277, 346-348, 465-506)

March 3: Karl Kraus, The Last Days of Mankind. A Tragedy in Five Acts

March 10: **Spring Break-Enjoy**

March 17: Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf (English translation), pp. 3-175, 284-329

March 24: Theodor Herzl, The Jewish State and Old-New Land

March 31: **No Class-Individual meetings will take place this week to confirm paper topics.**

April 7: Sigmund Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents and Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis

April 14: Joseph Roth, The Radetzky March

April 21: Stefan Zweig, The World of Yesterday

April 28: Student Presentations-Round 1

May 5: Student Presentations-Round 2