

HUMA 3603 3.0

Vienna: City of Appearances

WS 2020 T Th 13:00-14:30, FC103

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Susan Ingram

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Office Hour: T Th 14:30-16:00 or by appointment (singram@yorku.ca)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course investigates Viennese intellectual and cultural production and situates it in the city's larger history of imperial Baroque splendour, radical politics, psychosexual obsession, and refined taste culture. Course

Credit Exclusions: AP/GER 3601 3.00.

SUGGESTED LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will:

- acquaint students with the cultural achievements of a major urban European centre;
- help them understand the historical background of a period crucial for the formation of twentieth-century Central Europe;
- give them a firm understanding of the social and cultural origins of Central European modernity, in particular the "Vienna modern";
- demonstrate the connections between urban space and cultural practices;
- explore enduring mythologies that continue to shape contemporary Vienna, as well as contesting urban imaginaries.

REQUIRED READINGS

The following three texts are available in the York University bookstore. Other readings will be provided as pdfs on our Moodle site:

- Schorske, Carl E. *Fin-De-Siecle Vienna: Politics and Culture*. New York: Vintage, 1980. ISBN-10: 0 394 744 780.
- Zweig, Stefan. *World of Yesterday*. Introduction by Harry Zohn. University of Nebraska Press, 1964. ISBN-10: 0 803 252 242.
- Ingram, Susan and Markus Reisenleitner. *Wiener Chic: A Locational History of Vienna Fashion*. Bristol: Intellect, 2013. ISBN 9 781 783 201 846.

EVALUATION

As an upper-level course in the Humanities, evaluation is based on reading, discussion, and active participation. Because the course is based on the discussion of readings and film screenings, it is crucial that students keep up with the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them.

- In-class preparedness, engagement, and short weekly written assignments 20%
(please note – our class is a social-media free zone designed to enable you to be fully *present*)
- Assignment 1: initial impressions of Vienna (1000 words, due 11 Feb) 20%
- Assignment 2: reading of a film about *fin-de-siècle* Vienna in the spirit of Schorske and/ or Zweig (1500 words, due 12 Mar) 30%
- Assignment 3: final exam OR reflective/ creative assignment, a proposal for which to be submitted by 17 Mar (due 2 Apr) 30%

SESSION SCHEDULE

7-9 Jan **Introduction: The Viennas of Yesterday and Today**

Readings: Schorske, “Introduction”; Zweig, “Introduction by Harry Zohn” and “Preface”; Ingram/ Reisenleitner, “Introduction”

Screening: *A Taste of Vienna* (<https://vimeo.com/156161909>)

14-16 Jan **Historical Background**

Readings: Lehne and Johnson (3-45); Ingram/ Reisenleitner, Ch 1 “Baroque Chic”
clips from *Before Sunrise* (1995, d. Richard Linklater)

21-23 Jan **The City as a Work of Art**

Readings: Olsen, “The Vienna of Franz Joseph”; Szapor, “From ‘Guardian Angel of Hungary’ to the ‘Sissi Look-Alike Contest’: The Making of the Cult of Elisabeth, Queen of Hungary”

clips from *Sissi* and *Elisabeth the Musical*

28-30 Jan **The Ringstrasse**

Reading: Schorske, Ch 2 “The Ringstrasse, Its Critics and the Birth of Urban Modernism”

clips from *Kinopioniere*

4-6 Feb **Jungwien**

Readings: Schorske, Ch 1 “Politics and the Psyche: Schnitzler and Hofmannsthal”; Zweig, “I. The World of Security” and II. “School in the Last Century”; Ingram/ Reisenleitner Ch 2 “Ringstrasse Chic”

clips from *La Ronde* (1964, d. Roger Vadim)

11-13 Feb **The Ringstrasse's Politics**

Readings: Schorske, Ch 3 "Politics in a New Key: An Austrian Trio"; Zweig, "IV. *Universitas Vitae*"

Assignment 1 due 11 Feb

17-21 Feb READING WEEK

25-27 Feb **Jahrhundertwende Art and Design**

Readings: Schorske, Ch 5 "Gustav Klimt: Painting and the Crisis of the Liberal Ego"; Zweig, "VI. Bypaths on the Way to Myself"; *Vienna 1900*, "Introduction" and "Design"

3-5 Mar **The Ringstrasse's Psyche**

Readings: Bettelheim, "The Birthplace of Psychoanalysis"; Schorske, Ch 4 "Politics and Patricide in Freud's Interpretation of Dreams"; Zweig, "III. Eros Matutinus"

10-12 Mar **Transformation and War**

Readings: Schorske, Ch 6 "The Transformation of the Garden"; Ch 7 "Explosion in the Garden: Kokoschka and Schoenberg"; Zweig, "VIII. Light and Shadow over Europe"

clips from *Colonel Redl* (1985, d. István Szabó)

Assignment 2 due 12 Mar

17-19 Mar **Red Vienna and its Legacy**

Readings: Ingram/ Reisenleitner Ch 3 "Prolo Chic"; Gruber, "Red Vienna, Workers, Mass Culture and Modernity"; Blau, "Revisiting Red Vienna as an Urban Project"; Kuttner, "The Man From Red Vienna"; Zweig, "XIV. Sunset"

Proposal for creative assignment due 17 Mar

24-26 Mar **After Another War**

Readings: Zweig, "Publisher's Postscript" (437-40); Epstein, "The Jewish Writer's Dream Wife"; Ingram/ Reisenleitner Ch 4 "Ausländer Chic"; Rosaldo, "Imperialist Nostalgia"

clips from *The Third Man* (1949, d. Carol Reed)

31 Mar, 2 Apr **Conclusion: Vienna Now, Not Never**

review, **final exam/ assignment 2 Apr**