DRAFT: Final syllabus information will be provided to students after acceptance.

The Jewish Experience in Europe: Vienna and Budapest

Course Directors: Asher Biemann and Gabriel Finder

This course will explore Jewish history, culture and everyday life in Europe from a multidisciplinary perspective. It will consist of introductory lectures, site visits, guest speakers, and student presentations. Classes will be held on site as well as at the University of Graz in conjunction with the Center for Jewish Studies. The course is designed to be 12-day term with primary locations in Graz, Vienna, and Budapest. The objective of the course is to acquaint students in a deep way with the history, culture, and everyday lives of European Jews through immersion in their seminal texts ideas, cultural artifacts, and life styles in the past and present, against the backdrop of Vienna and other European cities of deep historical significance to the development of Jewish life.

Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance of a pre-departure meeting (TBA, December)
2. Regular attendance of seminar sessions, guided tours, field trips, and course related programs. Students must inform the instructors if unable to participate in a particular part of the program.
3. Preparation of all required readings. Readings will be made available on a collab site. Students are strongly encouraged to begin reading the assignments following the pre-departure meeting.
4. Active participation.
5. A responsive diary. All students are required to keep a daily log of their experiences and reflections during the trip. There is no particular format, nor a required length. Students may express themselves in prose, poetry, visuals, or any other medium. A copy of the diary should be submitted together with the final project.
6. A 15-page research paper or final project on a topic of choice relating to the themes of the course. Students should consult with the directors about their proposed papers or projects. Topics and exposés for creative projects must be approved in advance by the directors. All final papers and projects are due by February 1, 2020.

Grading:

Attendance and active participation: 30%
Responsive diary: 30%
Final paper/project: 40%

J-Term 2020 Tentative Itinerary

December 26, 2019 (Thursday):
Instructors arrive.

December 27, 2018 (Friday):
Instructors arrive.

December 28 (Saturday):
Student arrival in Vienna, Austria.

December 29 (Sunday):
Morning: Walking tour.
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Lunch
Afternoon: Kunsthistorisches Museum (Museum of Art) and Secession.
Evening: Opera.

December 30 (Monday):
Morning: Schönbrunn
Afternoon free.

December 31 (Tuesday):
Morning: Heeresgeschichtliches Museum (Museum of Military History)
Train to Graz
Afternoon: City of Graz Historical Museum
Evening: New Year's Eve.

January 1, 2020 (Wednesday):
Morning Free.
Afternoon: Walking tour through City of Graz, Schloßberg.
Group Dinner with Graz Students and Colleagues

January 2 (Thursday)
Morning and afternoon: University of Graz: Guest Lectures and seminars.
Lectures in seminar style on European Jewish history and culture with a focus on Austria and Hungary. Speakers will come from the University of Virginia and the University of Graz. We are honored to welcome Professor Xu Xin from Nanjing University (China). Lectures are 30 minutes long followed by 15 minutes of discussion. Coffee breaks between lectures. Lunch at nearby restaurants.

January 3 (Friday):
Morning: Lectures
Departure for Vienna by train.
Evening: Attend synagogue services.

January 4 (Saturday):
Morning: Free time. Students may elect to attend synagogue services.
Evening: Opera

January 5 (Sunday):
Daytrip to Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial Site.
Evening: Discussion of the visit.

January 6 (Monday):
Morning: Tour in the Jewish Museum Judenplatz,
Late morning and afternoon: Jewish Museum Dorotheergasse with Hannah Lanzmann, Central Synagogue (Stadttempel)
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Evening: Film screening at the University of Vienna with Professor Frank Stern

**January 7 (Tuesday):**
Guided tour - Jewish cemetery.
Evening: Departure for Budapest

**January 8 (Wednesday):**
Morning: Old Buda, Fishermen's Bastion
Afternoon: Central European University
Evening: Reception at the Austrian Embassy

**January 9 (Thursday):**
Morning: Jewish Budapest. Includes Jewish district and its three major synagogues; Jewish Museum.
Afternoon: Holocaust Museum
Evening: Meeting and discussion at the Hungarian Shoa Foundation.

**January 10 (Friday):**
Morning: Danube Promenade Memorial, Parliament.
Afternoon: Andrássy University Budapest, Final Discussion
Evening: Attend Synagogue services. Farewell Dinner

**January 11 (Saturday):**
Students depart.

**January 12 (Sunday):**
Instructors depart.

**Seminar Presentations:**

**Asher Biemann**

**The Jewish Experience of Modernity**

How did Jews in Europe respond to the modern period? When did the modern period begin for them? What is Jewish modernity? This session explores short passages from key texts between 1670 and 1870 to illuminate some of the changes that occurred in this time period and which were formative to the emergence of Modern Judaism.

**Required Reading:**

Handout with additional sources for the seminar session will be provided.
Gabriel Finder
The Holocaust (Shoah)

In this session we examine the encounter between Nazi Germany and Europe’s Jews between 1933 and 1945. This encounter resulted in the death of almost six million Jews. This session aims to clarify basic facts and explore explanations for the origins and unfolding of the Holocaust—in Hebrew, Shoah. We will ask why Germans, Jews, and other Europeans, including Austrians, did what they did during the Holocaust and why some acted in one way, others in another. The second half of the session will focus on the Shoah in Austria. To this end, we will discuss the memoir of Ruth Klüger, a Holocaust survivor from Vienna.

Required reading:
Ruth Klüger, weiter leben. Eine Jugend (Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag, 1992), S. 7-189; or

Klaus Hödl
The Development and Profile of the Viennese Jewish Community

The presentation sheds light on the development and composition of the Jewish community in Vienna. Questions to be raised and answered pertain to the demography of Viennese Jews, their migration patterns, their occupational structure, cultural life and achievements.

Required reading:

Recommended reading:

Susanne Korbel:
Beyond the Burgtheater and Operaház, beyond the Jewish and non-Jewish divide: popular entertainment in fin-de-siècle Habsburg’s capitals

This lecture seeks to explore the culture and entertainment scene in Budapest and Vienna, at the turn of the 20th century. In the course of the lecture we will delve into leisure activities beyond the much researched areas such as the big theatres of the time and thus, juxtapose common narratives of the experience of Jews to less known ones.
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**Required reading:**


**Recommended reading:**

Gluck Mary, The Invisible Jewish Budapest: Metropolitan Culture at the Fin de Siècle. (Madison: Wisconsin University Press 2016)

Dallinger Brigitte/Hanak-Lettner Werner/Noggler Lisa/Spera Danielle, (ed. For the Jewish Museum Vienna), Roads to leisure: Entertainment in the Prater and the City (Wien: Metroverlag 2016)

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**Gerald Lamprecht**

**The Jewish response to antisemitism in the late 19th and 20th Century**

Since the 1870’s German nationalistic and Christian social politicians established antisemitism in the political discourses in Austria and thus questioned the emancipation of the Jews. In this lecture, I will discuss some responses of Austrian Jews to the development of antisemitism in the late 19th and early 20th Century

**Required reading**


**Recommended reading:**


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**Ursula Mindler-Steiner**

**Jews in Austria and Hungary (since the 19th century)**

In my lecture, I will provide an overview of the Jewish history of Austria and Hungary from the 19th century to this date. I will in particular compare the legal situation, trace parallel as well as differing developments (e.g. pertaining to the Shoa) and show how Jewish lives changed after 1945.

**Required reading:**
DRAFT: Final syllabus information will be provided to students after acceptance.


Recommended reading:

Frank Stern:
Images of Jews in Austrian and German Movies Since 1918

A Jewish film director, Louise Fleck, belonged to the pioneers of the Austrian film industry while in Berlin the actor and director Ernst Lubitsch created Jewish characters which became blueprints for Woody Allen movies. During the interwar period from 1918 to 1939 silent films and talkies presented a variety of Jewish characters while from 1933 to 1945 antisemitic and racist images of things Jewish prevailed in Vienna and Berlin. After 1945, the film industries in Austria, in East and West Germany had to cope with the legacy of World War II and particularly with the Shoah. The lecture will be based on stills from representative movies.

Suggested Reading List (arranged in order of the program)

Allan Janik and Stephen Toulmin, Habsburg Vienna: City of Paradoxes, 33-66 (“Wittgenstein’s Vienna”)

Hartwig Wessely, Words of Peace and Truth (The Jew in the Modern World)
Joseph II: Edicts of Tolerance (The Jew in the Modern World)

Carl Schorske, “Politics in a new Key: An Austrian Trio,” Fin-de-Siècle Vienna, 116-180
Theodor Herzl, The Jewish State
Theodor Herzl, Old New Land, 3-42.

Klaus Hödl: "From Acculturation to Interaction: A New Perspective on the History of Jews in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna" (Shofar 25:2, 2007).
Alison Rose: Jewish Women in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna.

Bruce F. Pauley: From Prejudice to Persecution: A History of Austrian Anti-Semitism. Read Chapter 2: Historical Roots (13-26)
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Chapter 3: Anti-Semitism in Fin-de-Siècle Austria (27-44)
Chapter 8: Assassination and Intimidation (102-115)
Chapter 20: Restitution and Recovery (301-317)

Arthur Schnitzler: Professor Bernhardi

Hugo Bettauer: The City Without Jews

James E. Young: Austria's Ambivalent Memory (idem The Texture of Memory, 91-117)

Simon Wiesenthal: The Waldheim Case (in Lorenz, ed., Contemporary Jewish Writing in Austria, 81-98)

Dagmar Lorenz (ed.): Contemporary Jewish Writing in Austria: An Anthology. Read:
Hilde Spiel: I love living in Austria. Aura and Origin (99-114).
Jean Amery: The Respectable Antisemitism (115-132)
Robert Schindel: Prologue to Born-Where (243-254)
Ruth Beckermann: Youth in Vienna (303-316)


Mary Gluck: The Invisible Jewish Budapest: Metropolitan Culture at the Fine-de-Siècle, Introduction, chapter 1 (3-38)


Randolph Braham: The Politics of Genocide: The Holocaust in Hungary. (Condensed Edition). Read: Chapter 1: Hungarian Jewry: An Historical Overview (19-28); Chapter 4: The Jewish Council (73-86); Chapter 8: The Fate of the Jews of Budapest (155-166); Chapter 9: The Arrow Cross Era (181-197).


George Steiner: The Idea of Europe