

LANGUAGES AND CULTURES  
WESTERN UNIVERSITY

CLC 2135A / GERMAN 2255F

VIENNA: CITY OF DREAMS

Fall 2022

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Professor Melitta Adamson

e-mail: [melitta@uwo.ca](mailto:melitta@uwo.ca)

M 10:30-12:30, W 10:30-11:30 Ger tut., 11:30-12:30 CLC tut.

Office: University College, Room 3312

Tel. 519-661-2111 #85861

### COURSE CONTENT

The course focuses on the continuities and discontinuities in Viennese history, literature, and culture in the periods around 1900 and 2000. In 1900, Vienna was the capital of a vast multicultural and multi-lingual empire. It was the home of artists, writers, philosophers and scientists who shaped 20th century thought. An overview of the historical events which led to the Austro-Hungarian Empire around 1900, and the forces which caused its demise will be followed by a study of some of the major personalities and movements of the time. They include the architect Adolf Loos, Sigmund Freud and Psychoanalysis, the writers Arthur Schnitzler and Hugo von Hofmannsthal, the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, the painters Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka, the Austrian version of Art Nouveau known as Jugendstil, the artistic achievements of the Wiener Werkstätte, and the composers Gustav Mahler, Arnold Schoenberg, and Richard Strauss. A century later Vienna was again at a turning point in its history and culture. Contemporary artists and thinkers to be discussed are the writers Thomas Bernhard and Elfriede Jelinek, the philosopher Robert Menasse, the painter, architect and environmentalist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, and the musicians Wolfgang Ambros, EAV, and André Heller.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

The course consists of a one to two-hour lecture-discussion session in English on Zoom for both CLC 2135A and German 2255F, and a separate CLC and German tutorial hour. AIMS - develop a knowledge of some of the major intellectual figures, and artistic, political, philosophical, and scientific movements in imperial and contemporary Vienna - explore the relationship between these figures and movements in a synchronic, and diachronic way - study the broader socio-historical currents underlying intellectual life in a major European metropolis at the beginning and end of the 20th century.

### OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students will have acquired - a good overview of the cultural and intellectual life in Vienna around 1900 and its reverberations a century later - the tools to study, synthesize, and critically analyze the cultural, scientific, and literary production of a metropolitan centre during key points in its history -an enhanced ability to present clear, persuasive, and original arguments about them in oral and written work

## ASSESSMENTS

Participation 15%

1 Book Report 15%

Independent Project 15%

Midterm 15%

2 Writing Assignments 20%

Final Exam 20%

## COURSE MATERIALS

Schorske, Carl E. *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture*

Custom Course Material for CLC 2135A or for German 2255F with texts by Weininger, Freud, Wittgenstein, Hofmannsthal, Schnitzler.

Schnitzler, Arthur. *Traumnovelle / Dream Story*

Bernhard, Thomas. *Holzfällen / Woodcutters*

Hofmannsthal, Hugo von and Richard Strauss, *Der Rosenkavalier* (for libretto see <https://opera-guide.ch/operas/der+rosenkavalier/> )

Optional:

Morton, Frederic. *A Nervous Splendor: Vienna 1888/1889*

O'Connor, Anne-Marie. *The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer*

Movie: *Bride of the Wind*

The Department of Languages and Cultures Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Languages and Cultures courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Languages and Cultures website at <https://www.uwo.ca/languages/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Languages and Cultures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.