

Fin de Siècle Vienna and Berlin: 1871–1914

John Gibbons

Course Description:

From romanticism to expressionism, from socialism to imperialism, Vienna and Berlin constituted a veritable maelstrom of ideologies in the era following the Franco-Prussian War. From the indulgent cafe culture of Vienna to the bitter cynicism of Brecht and Weill's Berlin, these two cities represent the culmination—and, ultimately, the decadence and destruction—of an entire European culture. This course will examine figures, trends, and movements such as the clash between authoritarianism and liberalism in Berlin; the expressionism of painters such as Klimt and Kokoschka; composers from Mahler to the Second Viennese School, the revolutionary and influential philosophies of Freud and Wittgenstein, and political figures such as Bismarck.

Week 1

- Readings: Carl Schorske, *Fin de Siècle Vienna*. Stefan Zweig, *The World of Yesterday*
- Politics: Antisemitism, Nationalism and Zionism
Imperial Vienna
- Otto von Bismarck and the 2nd Reich
- Music: Anton Bruckner (1824-1896), Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Week 2

- Readings: Gordon Brook-Shepherd, *The Austrians: A Thousand Year Odyssey*; Alexandra Richie, *Faust's Metropolis: A History of Berlin*
- Politics
- Vienna: The Road to the Great War; Franz Joseph
- Berlin: The Road to the Great War; Wilhelm II
- Architecture: The Ringstrasse and the Modernization of Vienna
- Music: Brahms

Week 3

- Musical Politics: The Vienna Opera
- Readings: Hilde Spiel, *Vienna's Golden Autumn: From the Watershed Year 1866 to Hitler's Anschluss, 1938*; Allan Janik & Stephen Toulmin, *Wittgenstein's Vienna*
- Music: Johann Strauss, Jr., Lehar, Suppe

Week 4

- Painting: Klimt and the Secession
 - Other Painters: Schiele, Kokoschka, Kandinsky, Schoenberg
- Readings: *Ver Sacrum*
- Music: Mahler

NOTABLES

Viktor Adler
Otto von Bismarck
Johannes Brahms
Anton Bruckner
Oskar Kokoschka
Franz Ferdinand, Archduke
Theoder Fontane
Sigmund Freud
Theodor Herzl
Hugo von Hofmannstahl
Gustav Klimt
Karl Lueger
Alma Mahler
Gustav Mahler
Robert Musil
Rudolf, Crown Prince
Arthur Schnitzler
Arnold Schoenberg
Georg von Schoenerer
Camilla Sitte
Otto Wagner
Wilhelm II, Kaiser
Ludwig Wittgenstein
Hugo Wolff
Alexander Zemlinsky
Stefan Zweig

Week 5

- Sigmund Freud & Arthur Schnitzler
- Readings: Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*; Peter Gay, *Schnitzler's Century*, Peter Gay, *Freud, A Life For Our Times*
- Music: Hugo Wolff

Week 6

- Literature: Readings drawn from Musil, Schnitzler, Hofmannsthal, Fontane, Rilke, Kafka
- Music: Alexander Zemlinsky

Week 7

- Vienna and Berlin on the precipice
- Readings: Morton, *A Nervous Splendor*;
- Ballet: *Meyerling*
- Readings: Crankshaw, *Fall of the House of Hapsburg*;
- Music: Erich Korngold and Franz Schreker

Week 8

- Politics & Society: World War I
- Readings: Otto Friedrichs: *Before the Deluge*; Edmond Taylor: *The Fall of the Dynasties*
- Film: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*
- Music: Arnold Schoenberg

Recommended Readings

Sigmund Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*

Egon Gartenberg, *Mahler: The Man and His Music*

Peter Gay, *Schnitzler's Century: The Making of Middle-Class Culture*

Ailan Janik & Stephen Toulmin, *Wittgenstein's Vienna*

Franz Kafka, *Metamorphoses*

Giles MacDonogh, *Berlin: A Portrait of Its History, Politics, Architecture, and Society*

George R. Marek, *The Eagles Die*

Alexandra Richie, *Faust's Metropolis*

Rainer Maria Rilke, *Where Silence Reigns: Selected Prose*

Arthur Schnitzer, *Desire and Delusion: Three Novellas*

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