

LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
WESTERN UNIVERSITY

CLC 2135A / GERMAN 2255F

VIENNA 1900/2000

Fall 2020

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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 multi-cultural 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-

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*