

German 239: Culture and Language Studies in Vienna

January Interim 2011 Abroad

FOL-G, Counts toward German major

Professor Karen R. Achberger

A total immersion experience, this course explores present-day Viennese culture and society in light of its recent history. In addition to classroom discussion of readings, students keep a journal of daily experiences and write short weekly essays on Viennese and Austrian culture. Site visits within Vienna and to nearby areas allow students to explore the city and vicinity, including the Vienna woods. In consultation with the instructor, students work in pairs to research a final project of their choice. Taught in German as a multi-level course for students with at least German 231 or the equivalent.

Students encounter firsthand Vienna's rich cultural heritage as revealed in museums, operas, operettas, concerts, and in the city's architectural masterpieces, from the *Hundertwasser Haus* to the *Secession* and the *Ringstraße*. Depending on their specific interests, students can choose for their special project from a wide range of cultural phenomena, from Sigmund Freud to Gustav Mahler and Arnold Schönberg, from Vienna's coffeehouse culture to Johann Strauss and the painters Klimt, Kokoschka and Schiele, or they may choose to focus on a timelier topic, such as Austria's role in the Green movement, the EU or the UNO. They might focus on a painting, building, piece of music, a question or issue, or it might be an artist, architect, writer, composer or institution.

We live for four weeks in the heart of Vienna, two blocks from *Karlsplatz* (St. Charles Square), the *Secession*, the *Musikverein* and the *Wiener Staatsoper* (Vienna State Opera). Our classes are in a palace directly across the street from the Vienna State Opera, a 10-minute walk from our hotel. On-site experts lead tours and introduce us to specific aspects of Vienna's artistic, musical, and architectural heritage.

Living for four weeks in downtown Vienna, students have the opportunity for total immersion in the German language. All class discussions and readings, as well as site visits and guest lectures, are conducted in German. This includes classes at the AAIE (Austro-American Institute of Education, Operngasse 4) with a Viennese instructor each morning Monday through Friday focusing on Austrian and Viennese culture; seminar meetings with the St. Olaf instructor each afternoon discussing short texts in an Austrian cultural reader; and occasional guest lectures by on-site experts highlighting Vienna's rich musical and artistic culture since the Hapsburg era. All of these give students an opportunity to practice listening, taking notes and organizing information in German. Guided tours of cultural sites offer an additional opportunity to develop listening and note-taking skills, as well as to formulate questions about and interpret the cultural phenomena. For their final cultural research project in German, students consult with the St. Olaf instructor to design and complete in tandem a written summary and oral presentation in German of a final cultural research project.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

Our on-site exploration of present-day Vienna and Austria has several components. Morning classes M-F at the Austro-American Institute of Education (AAIE) focus on aspects of Vienna's rich cultural history and present-day society. In addition, cultural site visits on three afternoons a week and an evening concert, or opera once a week offer a rich background for our afternoon seminar meetings. During these discussions, students report on their experiences, and anticipate the next day's explorations, which include not only visits to cultural sites, but also observation of everyday activities and interaction with the people they encounter on the streets, at the cultural sites, in the hotel, stores and coffeehouses, and at the *Naschmarkt* (an open-air market two blocks from our hotel). Students work in pairs on an instructor-approved cultural research project of their own design, gathering information, writing a summary, and making a final oral presentation to the class. We have one free weekend for excursions to Salzburg, Prague or Budapest, or for exploring Vienna on our own (e.g. Vienna Boys Choir, St. Stephan's Cathedral, the Prater, etc.).

Cost: \$4,380 (includes all transportation, hotel, tours, excursions, musical performances, Vienna transit pass, breakfast and dinner daily).

Maximum Enrollment: 20

TEXTS:

Beyond the Austrian cultural reader, *Österreich, ein landeskundliches Lesebuch* (by Jürgen Koppensteiner, Praesens Verlag, 2010, 3rd edition), the city and the people of Vienna constitute our main “text.” January transit passes give students the freedom to set out across the city and take part in everyday Viennese life without additional expense. For their final cultural research project, they may gather information from any written or aural sources, including tour guides, interviews, museum brochures, our textbook, and the AAIE library.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING:

Students demonstrate their understanding of Austrian and Viennese culture through daily seminar participation, journal entries, weekly short-answer quizzes on the cultural information from lectures and readings, and through the written and oral presentations of their final cultural research project.

Journals	20%
Weekly written quizzes (4)	20%
Weekly written reports (4)	20%
Daily seminar participation	20%
Final cultural research project (oral and written)	20%

TENTATIVE OVERVIEW:

Sunday, January 2, 2011: departure MSP on overnight flight to Vienna

Monday, January 3, 2011: arrival VIE

DATE	CLASSROOM	CITY
Week 1 Jan. 3-7	Starting Tuesday: 9-11:00 Class — AAIE 17-18:00 Seminar — Karen A. — Daily reports on observations Thursday: Vienna Quiz Friday: Written report due	Walking tour of 1 st district Museum of the City of Vienna Bus tour of Vienna and <i>Kahlenberg</i> <i>Stefansdom</i> : Epiphany Mass on Jan. 6 <i>Staatsoper: Die Fledermaus</i> (J. Strauss)
Week 2 Jan. 10-14	9-11:00 Class — AAIE 17-18:00 Seminar — Karen A. — Daily reports on observations Thursday: Vienna Quiz Friday: Written report due	<i>Zentralfriedhof</i> : tour of graves and church <i>Obere Belvedere</i> : Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka <i>Ringstraße</i> tour: <i>Burgtheater</i> , <i>Parliament</i> , <i>Votivkirche</i> , <i>Rathaus</i> , <i>Universität</i> Concert in the <i>Musikverein</i>
Week 3 Jan. 17-21	9-11:00 Class — AAIE 17-18:00 Seminar — Karen A. — Daily reports on observations Thursday: Vienna Quiz Friday: Written report due	Coffeehouse culture: <i>Café Central</i> <i>Schönbrunn</i> castle; the Sissi legend <i>Hundertwasser Haus</i> Operetta in <i>Volksoper</i>
Week 4 Jan. 24-28	9-11:00 Class — AAIE 17-18:00 Seminar — Karen A. — Daily reports on observations Thursday: Vienna Quiz Friday: Student presentations (20 min.) Written project summaries due (500 wds.)	<i>Schönberg Museum</i> <i>Freud Museum</i> tour <i>Postsparkasse</i> , <i>MAK</i> Farewell dinner, <i>Donauturm / Donauinsel</i>

Saturday, January 29, 2011: departure VIE and arrival MSP