**HS 352 FROM EMPIRE TO REPUBLIC(S). AUSTRIA 1900-1995**
IES Abroad Vienna

**DESCRIPTION:** A study of the Austrian state and its relations with the community of states of Central Europe and the people living there, based on an analysis of the decisive points in their shared history from the turn of the 19th to the 20th century up until the 1990s. The course presents this history as an essential background for understanding modern-day Austria. Topics include the roots of the modern Austrian state in the Habsburg Empire, Fin-de-siècle Vienna with all its ups and downs, the events of World War One and the dissolution of the Habsburg Monarchy in October 1918, the independence of the Austrian republic in November 1918, the economic and political crises of the 1920s and 1930s, the phase of dictatorship and "Austrofascism", Austria's fate under Nazi rule and its participation in Nazi crimes against humanity, the resurrection of the Republic 1945-1955, Austria's role as a neutral state during the Cold War, the development of civil society in the 1960s and 1970s, Austria's confrontation with its dark past in the 1980s as well as the political, societal, and social reinvention of the Austrian republic in the 1990s.

**CREDITS:** 3

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**ADDITIONAL COST:** None

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**
- Lectures
- Discussion
- Assigned readings
- Excursions

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**
- Course participation - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 30%
- Final Exam - 40%
- Excursion journal with reflection and analysis - 20%

**Course Participation**
Participation in class discussions and homework are part of the grade. Please read and prepare the required readings for every session as indicated below in the section about content.

**Midterm & Final Exam**
The midterm and final exam will consist of several short general questions. You will have to combine the information you read, heard in class and saw on the excursions. The questions need to be answered in the form of short, essay-like paragraphs. Time: 90 minutes each time.

**Journal**
Furthermore, you are supposed to take notes during the excursions, analyzing them in the end and creating a fluent story that contains the main points of the excursions related to the reading assignments and the course content. This excursion journal should be about five to six pages.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Understand the historical foundations of present-day Austria.
- Be aware of the historical complexity of Central Europe.
- Be able to name and assess the principal historical developments of Austria's history in the 19th and 20th century.
- Articulate the main points of the scholarly debate about certain aspects of Austria's contemporary history.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**
IES Abroad Vienna requires attendance at all class sessions. Attendance will be taken every class. Students must attend at least 60% of their class sessions to qualify for a passing grade, regardless of whether their absences have been excused or not. Your attendance is required in-person unless otherwise noted in the syllabus.

Students are highly encouraged to communicate absences as soon as possible to their professors and for excused absences using the processes described in the absence policy.

Please refer to the IES Abroad Vienna Absence Policy for a more precise overview of all attendance policies at IES Abroad Vienna as well as an overview of possible grade penalties.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**
At IES Abroad Vienna, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty undermines the principles of trust and fairness essential to a thriving learning community. As such, plagiarism and cheating are considered serious violations of our code of conduct, and students found engaging in such activities will face swift and severe consequences, ranging from a failing grade on an assignment, to an academic review and possible expulsion from the program.

**USE OF AI:**
AI may only be used as a learning aid. Its use for completing weekly homework (reading questions) and exams (midterm and final) is prohibited.

**NOTE:**
This syllabus is subject to change according to class progress and other factors. Please pay attention to in-class announcements and e-mails.

**CONTENT:**

| Week | Content | Assignments and Readings |
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| **Week 1** | Session 1:<br>The country, the state and the man in charge. An introduction to Austrian history 1867-1900. (meeting in class) | • Judson, The Habsburg Empire (pp. 333-384) |
| | Session 2:<br>Excursion to the Austrian parliament | Answer the questions on the texts mentioned above on Moodle until Week 2 |
| **Week 2** | Session 3:<br>Fin-de-Siècle Vienna revisited. Society, Politics, and Daily Life in a European metropolis. (meeting in class) | • Schorske, Fin-de-siècle Vienna (pp. 116-180) |

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| | Session 4:<br>Excursion to the Jewish Museum Vienna | Answer the questions on the texts mentioned above on Moodle until Week 3 |
| **Week 3** | Session 5:<br>“We want to go down in history with honor”. Austria-Hungary and World War One. (meeting in class) | • Rauchensteiner, The First World War and the end of the Habsburg Monarchy (pp. 983-1010) |
| | Session 6 (02.10.2025):<br>Finis Austriae. The Paris peace conference 1919/1920 and the attempt to restore global order (meeting in class) | Answer the questions on the text mentioned above on Moodle until Week 4 |
| **Week 4** | Session 7:<br>Between optimism and national bankruptcy. The not-so-golden 1920s in Austria (meeting in class) | • Jelavich, Modern Austria. Empire and Republic (pp. 151-191) |
| | Session 8:<br>Excursion to the Wien Museum | Answer the questions on the text mentioned above on Moodle until Week 5 |
| **Week 5** | Session 11:<br>“Remember July 15!” Austria between political violence and the global economic crisis (meeting in class) | • Boyer, Austria 1867-1955 (pp. 668-695) |
| | Session 10:<br>Excursion to the Justizpalast (Palace of Justice) | Answer the questions on the text mentioned above on Moodle until Week 7 |
| **Week 6** | Midterm week | |
| **Week 7** | Session 11:<br>Between civil war and external threats. Austria in the time of “Austrofascism” 1934-1938 (meeting in class) | • Steiner, The lights that failed (pp. 314-348) |
| | Session 12:<br>Excursion to the Burgtor at the Heldenplatz | Answer the questions on the text mentioned above on Moodle until Week 8 |
| **Week 8** | Session 13 (11.11.2025):<br>Temptation and violence. Austria under Nazi rule, 1938–1945 (meeting in class) | • Steiner, The triumph of the dark (pp. 552-609) |
| | Session 14 (13.11.2025):<br>Traces of war in the city of Vienna - historical walk in the 1st district | Answer the questions on the text mentioned above on Moodle until Week 9 |
| **Week 9** | Session 15:<br>For unity and freedom. Austria in the era of political compromise, 1945-1966 (meeting in class) | • Rauchensteiner, Under observation. Austria since 1918 (pp. 259-308) |

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| | Session 16:<br>Excursion to Schloss Belvedere | Answer the questions on the text mentioned above on Moodle until week 10 |
| **Week 10** | Session 17:<br>Threats from outside, yet center of the world. Neutral Austria in the Cold War (meeting in class) | • Judt, Post war. A History of Europe since 1945 (pp. 129-164) |
| | Session 18:<br>The uprising of civil society. Austria between the environmental debate and the Waldheim affair, 1978–1988 (meeting in class) | Answer the questions on the text mentioned above on Moodle until Week 11 |
| **Week 11** | Session 19:<br>A country in search of itself. From the fall of the Iron Curtain to EU accession, 1989–1995 (meeting in class) | • Beller, A Concise History of Austria (pp. 271-309) |
| | Session 20:<br>Excursion to the Austrian State Archive | Answer the questions on the text mentioned above on Moodle until Week 12 |
| **Week 12** | Finals Week | |

**COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:**

- Excursion to the Austrian parliament
- Excursion to the Jewish Museum Vienna
- Excursion to the Wien Museum
- Excursion to the Justizpalast (Palace of Justice)
- Excursion to the Burgtor at the Heldenplatz
- Historical walk in the 1st district of Vienna
- Excursion to Schloss Belvedere
- Excursion to the Austrian State Archive

**REQUIRED READINGS:**


- Beller, Steven. A Concise History of Austria. 2006.
- Boyer, John W. Austria 1867-1955. 2022.
- Jelavich, Barbara. Modern Austria. Empire and Republic, 1815-1986. 1987.
- Judt, Tony. Post war. A History of Europe Since 1945. 2005.
- Judson, Pieter. The Habsburg Empire. A New History. 2018.
- Rauchensteiner, Manfried. The First World War and the end of the Habsburg Monarchy 1914–1918. 2014.
- Rauchensteiner, Manfried. Under observation. Austria since 1918. 2018.
- Schorske, Carl. Fin-de-siècle Vienna. Politics and culture. 1981.
- Steiner, Zara. The lights that failed. European international history, 1919-1933. 2005.
- Steiner, Zara. The triumph of the dark. European international history, 1933-1939. 2015.


**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**


- Anderson, M.C. The Ascendancy of Europe. Aspects of European History 1815–1914. 1972.
- Anderson, Benedict. Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism (2nd ed.) 2006.
- Beller, Steven. Francis Joseph. 1996.
- Bischof, Günther (Ed.). Austria in the Twentieth Century. 2002.

- Cornwall, Marc (Ed.). The Last Years of Austria-Hungary (2nd ed.). 2003.
- Healy, Maureen. Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire. Total War and Everyday Life in World War I. 2004.
- Kann, Robert. A history of the Habsburg empire 1526–1918. 1974.
- Kissinger, Henry. A World Restored. 1957.
- Nielsen, Erika. Focus on Vienna 1900. Change and Continuity in Literature, Music, Art and Intellectual History. 1982.
- Okey, Robin. The Habsburg Monarchy c. 1765-1918. 2001.
- Palmer, Robert. The Age of the Democratic Revolution. I The Challenge. 1974.
- Rathkolb, Oliver. The Paradoxical Republic. Austria 1945-2005. 2010.
- Sked, Alan. The Decline and Fall of the Habsburg Monarchy. 1989.
- Sully, Melanie. A Contemporary History of Austria. 1990.
- Taylor, A.J.P. The Habsburg Monarchy 1809 to 1918. 1955.
- Williamson, Samuel. Austria-Hungary and the Origins of the First World War. 1991.