



**DR 341 VIENNA THEATER I**  
IES Abroad Vienna

**DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides students with elementary knowledge about academic treatment of theatrical texts, both from the perspective of literature and drama, in a practical form, and further familiarizes students with Viennese theater life. The students' understanding of theater texts in German, both classical and modern, and of modern performance practice is enhanced. Part of the class is organized in form of a workshop. In varying functions (acting, directing), students study, prepare, and then perform one or two short theatrical scenes towards the end of the semester. A positive side effect of the course is an improvement of the students' German language skills.

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45 hours

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** German

**PREREQUISITES:** 4 semesters (5 recommended) of college-level German, or proficiency in German acquired in other ways (bilingual family, etc.).

**ADDITIONAL COST:** **Approx.** €25-40 for tickets and textbooks.

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Theater Performances
- Films of Historic Performances
- Reports.

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

Students are expected to bring both physical and intellectual presence to the course. Grades are computed considering the following components:

- Regular preparation and participation, including extra times such as performance visits - 10%
- Oral reading reports and performance critiques (two each) - 15%
- Written reading reports and performance critiques (two each) - 25%
- Active engagement in the course's workshop component - 25%
- Final oral exam - 25%

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Discuss one of the liveliest and sometimes also controversial segments of culture in Vienna from having visited theaters in Vienna
- Analyze concepts of the theater usually lesser known in the U.S., such as "Regietheater"
- Analyze the differences between theater in the U.S. and Europe
- Speak more fluently in German by reading the texts and hearing actors perform the plays

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

IES Abroad Vienna requires attendance at all class sessions, including field study excursions, internship meetings, scheduled rehearsals, and exams. Attendance will be monitored and unexcused absences will affect the student's grade via the "Participation" component of each course's final grade.

## Excused Absences

- Excused absences are permitted only when a student is ill, when class is held on a recognized religious holiday traditionally observed by the particular student, or in the case of a grave incident affecting family members.
- To be granted an excused absence, the student must write an email to his/her professor in a timely manner stating the reason for the absence (and, if appropriate, how long they expect to be away) with a cc to Center administrative staff. In an emergency, the student may call Student Services or the Front Desk. If the student is unable to send an email (too sick, no computer), he/she may call the Student Assistant at the front desk (01/512 2601-11) who will then write the email described above and send it to said parties as stated above, with a cc to the student.
- If a student is absent 3 consecutive days or more, he/she will need to obtain a doctor's note and then submit this to the Registrar's office.

## CONTENT:

| Week          | Content   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>Week 1</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to terms and methods.</li> <li>• Introduction, reading and selection of performance workshop scene.</li> <li>• Text reading and discussion: Ilse Aichinger: Fenster-Theater<br/>Text discussion: play 1.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text discussion: play 1.</li> <li>• Theater evening: play 1.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance critique and discussion: play 1.</li> <li>• Workshop session 1.</li> <li>• Text discussion: play 2.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Week 4</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text discussion: play 2.</li> <li>• Theater evening: play 2.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Week 5</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance critique and discussion: play 2.</li> <li>• Workshop session 2.</li> <li>• Text discussion: play 3.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Week 6</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text discussion: play 3.</li> <li>• Theater evening: play 3.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Week 7</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance critique and discussion: play 3.</li> <li>• Workshop session 3.</li> <li>• Text discussion: play 4.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Week 8</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text discussion: play 4.</li> <li>• Theater evening: play 4.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Week 9</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance critique and discussion: play 4.</li> <li>• Workshop session 4.</li> <li>• Text discussion: play 5.</li> </ul>   |

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| <b>Week 10</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text discussion: play 5.</li> <li>• Theater evening: play 5.</li> </ul>                  |
| <b>Week 11</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance critique and discussion: play 5.</li> <li>• Workshop performance.</li> </ul> |

#### REQUIRED READINGS:

- (i.e., texts of plays to be studied): 5 dramas will be read and seen every semester, which ones entirely depends on plays showing and performance dates in Viennese theaters. Ideally, the texts will include: 2-3 plays from the Germans classics and Viennese Volkstheater and 2-3 20th century and contemporary texts. Also, the range of theaters should ideally reflect the vast variety of theatrical stages in Vienna, from the famous Burgtheater to a typical “Kellertheater”.
- It is guaranteed that the selection of plays will not be repeated in Theater in Vienna 1 and 2. Therefore, this course is available to full year students in both semesters.

#### Reading for the Workshop Component:

Arthur Schnitzler: Reigen (Excerpts) or Anatol (Excerpts)

*Example of Reading List (for Fall, 2010, in order of author's age)*

- Johann Wolfgang Goethe: Faust I (Burgtheater)
- Johann Nepomuk Nestroy: Umsonst (Volkstheater)
- Ödön von Horváth: Geschichten aus dem Wiener Wald (Akademietheater)
- Peter Turrini: Aus Liebe (Theater in der Josefstadt)
- Inge Lausund: Zuhause (Theater in der Drachengasse)