



DR 342 VIENNA THEATER II
IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to Vienna’s lively theatrical culture and its century-old tradition. The approach is two-fold: The reading of selected dramatic texts in the German original is complemented by attending performances of these plays in the city’s most famous venues. Students develop techniques for accessing even complex and/or historically remote works, they experience contemporary performance practice first-hand, and gain fluency in discussing the politics of theater in 21st century society.

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 textbooks/reading packages.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: lectures, discussions, student presentations, excursions, Moodle.

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 participation, including extra times for performance visits - 10%
- Oral Reports and Presentation - 15%
- Journals - 25%
- Midterm - 10%
- Papers - 15%
- Final oral exam - 25%

Regular participation, including extra times for performance visits:

In addition to regular classes, students attend 4 theater performances. Dates for theater visits will have to be agreed upon in the course of the semester. Once the dates are set, students are required to attend.

Grading rubric participation

A	Excellent participation: The student’s contributions reflect an active reading of the assigned bibliography. Skillfully synthesizes the main ideas of the readings and raises questions about the applications and implications of the material. Demonstrates, through questions and comments, that he or she has been capable of relating the main ideas in the readings to the other information discussed in the course, and with his or her own life experience. The student makes informed judgments about the readings and other ideas discussed in class, providing evidence and reasons. He/she respectfully states his/her reactions about other classmates’ opinions, and is capable of contributing to the inquiry spiral with other questions. The student gets fully involved in the completion of the class activities.
B	Very good participation: The student’s contributions show that the assigned materials are usually read. Most of the time the main ideas are identified, even though sometimes it seems that applications and implications of the information read were not properly reflected upon. The student is able to construct over others’ contributions, but sometimes seems to interrupt the shared construction to go over tangents. He/she is respectful of others’ ideas. Regularly involved in the activities but occasionally loses concentration or energy.



C	Regular participation: The participant evidences a regular reading of the bibliography, but in a superficial way. He/she tries to construct over others' ideas, but commonly provides comments that indicate lack of preparation about the material. Frequently, contributions are shallow or unarticulated with the discussion in hand.
F	Insufficient participation: Consistently, the participant reads in a shallow way or does not read at all. Does not participate in an informed way, and shows lack of interest in constructing over others' ideas.

Oral Reports and Presentation

Students informally report on the assigned readings on a weekly basis. Additionally, students give one presentation on a performance we attended and lead a classroom discussion (20 min.).

Journals

Students respond to two reading questions per week (Moodle Journal, 150 words each).

Midterm

A short in-class Midterm quiz is based on the course materials of weeks 1-5.

Papers

Two papers analyzing two theater performances are due in weeks 6 and 10 (600 words each). The exact due-dates depend on the actual performance dates.

Final

In a final oral exam, students (1) comment on a passage from one of the required plays, and (2) discuss one of the theater performances with respect to a question assigned in advance (15 min. total).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- engage in a meaningful discussion of theater in Vienna, one of the most lively and sometimes also controversial segments of Viennese culture
- discuss concepts of the theater usually lesser known in the U.S., such as "Regietheater"
- analyze complex dramatic texts and reflect on the conditions of its performance on stage
- speak German more fluently due to theater-related discussions, reports, and field-trips

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

IES Vienna requires attendance at all class sessions, including field study excursions, internship meetings, scheduled rehearsals, and all tests and exams. Attendance will be taken for every class. If a student misses more than the equivalent of a week of classes without an excuse, the final grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (for example, A- to B+) for every additional unexcused absence.

Excused absences are permitted only when:

- 1) a student is ill (health issues),
- 2) when class is held on a recognized religious holiday traditionally observed by the particular student, or
- 3) in the case of a grave incident affecting family members;
- 4) exceptions may be made for conflicting academic commitments, but only in writing and only well in advance of missed class time.

Any other absences are unexcused.

CONTENT:

The actual plays discussed in any given semester depend on the current programs of theaters in Vienna, and are introduced in the first weeks of classes. The course is organized along the following pattern, but may be adapted to the available performance dates.

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Viennese Theatrical Traditions • Theaters in Vienna • Theater-related vocabulary (I) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read play 1 (part 1) • Write 1 journal
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to read and analyze a dramatic text • Introduction play 1 • Text discussion play 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read play 1 (part 2) • Write 2 journals
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to analyze a theater performance • Text discussion play 1 • Performance critique play 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write 2 journals • Attend theater performance play 1 • Give oral presentation
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theater-related vocabulary (II) • Introduction play 2 • Text discussion play 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read play 2 (part 1) • Write 2 journals
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text discussion play 2 • Performance critique play 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read play 2 (part 2) • Write 2 journals • Attend theater performance play 2 • Give oral presentation • Paper 1 due
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction play 3 • Guided tour: Theater an der Wien • Midterm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read play 3 (part 1) • Write 1 journal
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theater-related Vocabulary (III) • Text discussion play 3 • Performance critique play 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read play 3 (part 2) • Write 2 journals • Attend theater performance play 3 • Give oral presentation
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical and contemporary concepts of the theater • Introduction play 4 • Text discussion play 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read play 4 (part 1) • Write 2 journals
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text discussion play 4 • Performance critique play 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read play 4 (part 2) • Write 2 journals • Attend theater performance play 4 • Give oral presentation
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excursion: Theatermuseum Wien • Concluding reflections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write 1 journal • Paper 2 due

	Final	
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COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- 4 theater visits
- Guided tour: Theater an der Wien
- Excursion: Theatermuseum Wien
- Screenings of historical films at the Metro Kino (optional)

REQUIRED READINGS:

4-5 dramas in the German original, usually ranging from classic tragedies (Goethe, Schiller), Viennese popular plays (Nestroy) to fin-de-siècle dramas (Schnitzler), 20th century avantgarde and contemporary performance projects. The selection of plays entirely depends on the theaters' current productions and their scheduling. Thus, the readings vary each semester and make this course available to full year students in both semesters (Vienna Theater I + II).

Sample list of dramas and performances (Fall 2015):

- Georg Büchner: *Dantons Tod* (Burgtheater)
- Gerhart Hauptmann: *Vor Sonnenuntergang* (Theater in der Josefstadt)
- Werner Schwab: *Die Präsidentinnen* (Akademietheater)
- Johann Nestroy: *Zu ebener Erde und erster Stock* (Volkstheater)
- Hermann Bahr: *Das Konzert* (Burgtheater)

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Enghart, Andreas. *Das Theater der Gegenwart*. München: Beck 2013.
- Fischer-Lichte, Erika. *Kurze Geschichte des deutschen Theaters*. Tübingen/Basel: Francke 1999.
- Lerman, Liz. Borstel, John. *Liz Lerman's critical response process. A method for getting useful feedback on anything you make, from dance to dessert*. Takoma Park, MD: Liz Lerman Dance Exchange 2003.
- Pfister, Manfred. *Das Drama. Theorie und Analyse*. München: Fink 1977.
- Weiler, Christel. Roselt, Jens. *Aufführungsanalyse. Eine Einführung*. Tübingen: Francke 2017.