HS 341 HISTORY AND MEMORY: MONARCHY AND DICTATORSHIP IN 20TH CENTURY CENTRAL EUROPE
IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:
Historical scholarship is divided by scholars who think that history is a science, based on laws, an unalterable set of facts which can be ascertained by archaeological or archival research, founded along the ideas of 19th century German scholars such as Theodor Mommsen and Leopold von Ranke and their contemporaries in (mostly) Western Europe. Contemporary philosophers, post-modern theorists and “new historians” argue that there is no such a thing as „history”: much rather, people remember the past in different and individual ways, and the result is a composite mixture of their memories, ever changing, imagined, and incomplete. A recent addition to this argument, by the French historian Pierre Nora, is the lieux(x) de mémoire, the place(s) where we remember the past, the display of monuments, sculptures, public spaces to remember e.g. the two World Wars, the Holocaust, national revolutions, terrorist attacks, historical figures, national heroes, and many other particular, underwent major changes as a result of these new philosophies and arguments. Much of what individuals, everyday people remember has entered History showing the enormous diversity and versatility of the past which we, ordinary human beings, personally shape and own – or disown.

The course presents two areas of history vs memory in particular: (1) the Habsburg Monarchy and its legacy in the nation states; (2) the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century.

(1) The Habsburg Monarchy, and particularly its great capital cities Vienna and Budapest, offer a rich venue to explore the changing nature of ‘History’ into histories. The dissolution of the Habsburg Empire, i.e. the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, in 1919-1920, resulted in the reorganization of a vast area in the center of Europe. The survivor states of the Habsburg lands such as today’s Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and parts of Italy, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine have their own histories of their Habsburg period and these different histories are combined with memories, national, regional, and personal narratives of the past.

(2) The totalitarian regimes of Nazi Germany and Stalin’s Soviet Union loom large in both contemporary historiography and public memory. One of the most painful parts of the legacy of Hitler’s Europe is the Holocaust, the systematic, industrialized extermination of European Jewry. The course juxtaposes the ways the Holocaust is remembered today including efforts to deny its existence.

The outcome of investigating history vs memory in Habsburg, national, and totalitarian contexts is a heightened sensitivity to what we know and what we remember, how the past survives in both scholarship and the public mind. Our knowledge of the past comes from the combination of learning and remembering, study and memory. Fact and fiction combined help us remember the past.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: College-level or AP course in Western and/or European History or Art History.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
- Lecture and discussion format
- Field trip to Budapest
- Walks in Vienna
- Readings will be posted on Moodle
REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
The course expectations include: active participation in class discussions; completion of all readings in time for class; term paper (10 pages, topics to be assigned individually); written, in-class mid-term and final exams.

- Midterm exam - 30%
- Final exam - 30%
- Term paper - 30%
- Class participation - 10%

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Understand the theoretical framework of ‘history’ vs ‘memory’;
- Appreciate the various forms of authoritarianism, dictatorship, and totalitarianism in Europe;
- Get to know the Habsburg Monarchy and its legacy in the survivor states;
- Learn of the transformations of East-Central Europe in the 20th century;
- View Nazi Germany and Stalin’s Soviet Union in both contemporary historiography and public memory.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
IES Abroad Vienna requires attendance at all class sessions, including field study excursions, internship meetings, scheduled rehearsals, and exams. Attendance will be taken for every class. If a student misses more than two 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.

Please refer to IES Vienna Attendance Policy for details on how to get your absences excused.

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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>1. Heroes’ Square in Vienna and Budapest</td>
<td>• Between Memory and History: Les lieux de mémoire [places to remember] by Pierre Nora</td>
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<td>3. the Mall in Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>4. Trafalgar Square in London</td>
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<td>5. the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin</td>
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<td>6. the Red Square in Moscow</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Interpreting the Past: Imagined Histories</td>
<td>Anthony Molho and Gordon S. Wood, eds</td>
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| Week 5 | Visual images of the past: how far back do we see?  
1. Feature films vs documentaries, history on television, video, the Internet | Films on totalitarianism: Cabaret, Julia, Mephisto; Burnt by the Sun, Sunshine |
| Week 6 | Midterm Exam | |
| Week 7 | Vienna  
1. Habsburg Past: Franz Joseph memories in Vienna, the memorial of the Empress Maria Theresa, the statues of Eugene of Savoy and Archduke Carl on Heroes’ Square, the statues of the founding fathers of the Republic of Austria around Parliament, the Arkadenhof in the Main Building of the University of Vienna.  
2. Totalitarian Past: Memorial for the 65,000 Austrian Jews and Jewesses killed in the Shoah; Gedenkstein für die Gestapo-Opfer; Memorial Against War and Fascism; Heroes Memorial for the Red Army at Schwarzenbergplatz. | Brandstätter, ed., John Lukacs (select chapters) |
| Week 8 | Budapest (Weekend field trip to Budapest)  
1. Habsburg Past: Heroes’ Square, Habsburg statues (Empress-Queen Elisabeth, Archduke Joseph), the former Royal Palace, the statue of Eugene of Savoy, Franz Joseph memories in Budapest, anti-Habsburg resistance figures.  
2. Totalitarian Past: the Statue of Liberty; the House of Terror; the 1956 memorial; the Statue Park of the Communist Era; Section 301 in the National Cemetery; Imre Nagy’s statue; parts of the Berlin Wall in Budapest. | György—Turai, eds. |
| Week 9 | Reshaping national history: The politically driven rearrangement of the past  
1. Renaming streets, changing statues, the examples in Vienna and Budapest. (e.g. Dr.-Karl-Lueger-Ring to Universitätsring; Stalingrad to Volgograd; the F. D. Roosevelt memorial in Washington, D.C.; the F. D. Roosevelt and the Moscow squares in Budapest)  
2. Contemporary historians and their debates. Can you “deny” the Holocaust? | Iggers, Rathkolb et al., John Lukacs (Chapter 7) |
**Week 10**

Is history relevant? Is it really “a master of life”?

1. 20th century fiction as a source of our knowledge of contemporary history

- Historical texts (Stefan Zweig, *Die Welt von Gestern* [The World of Yesterday];
- Thomas Bernhard, *Heldenplatz* [Heroes’ Square];
- Elfriede Jellinek, *Die Ausgespernten* [Wonderful, Wonderful Times];
- Imre Kertész, *Sorstalanság* [Fatelessness] (Excerpts)
- Journalism, fb, twitter, “unofficial” and “unorthodox” histories

**Week 11**

Personal memories relating to history

1. Family and friends as sources of history, personal memories, “papers in the attic”, the psychology of remembering (interviewing elderly family members, via e-mail or skype, on their personal histories)

**Week 12**

Final Exam
(Exact date and time TBA)

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**COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:**

- Weekend to Budapest
- Walks around Vienna

**REQUIRED READINGS:**


Global brilliance begins here.
Institute for the International Education of Students
Africa | Asia Pacific | Europe | Latin America
RECOMMENDED READINGS: