WS/LT 351 THE WOMAN AS WRITER AND PERSPECTIVE IN AUSTRIAN LITERATURE AFTER 1945
IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:
Austrian literature over the centuries has been dominated by men – with few notable exceptions such as Hrosvit v. Gandersheim, Marie Frf. v. Ebner-Eschenbach, Paula v. Preradovic, Bertha v. Suttner. After WW II, there is an increase of female women writers not only in numbers, but in importance. Since 1945, female authors in Austria have successfully tried to break free from the limitations women were subject to in earlier times, so successful in fact that they have become leading figures in the shaping and defining of Austrian literature as a whole. This course tries to explain the phenomenon of women in Austrian literature since 1945. It comprises the full scope of female thought from the ever present “Vergangenheitsbewältigung” to radical feminist views on society and social interaction in the seventies and eighties, and on to recent novels concerning new problems of the female in a changing society, such as raising children as single mothers, or dealing with migration in Europe. It will also deal with the problem of changing one’s sex, and check whether a male perspective on female life bears validity.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
Lectures; group discussions. Several shorter texts will be read by the entire class and provide the basic structure and chronological frame to the course, one movie adaptations of a novel by Elfriede Jelinek will be shown and discussed. In addition, each student will be asked to read a novel and present it to the class. Depending on the choices students make for the presentation, the emphasis of the course can vary

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Regular physical and intellectual attendance, and participation in discussions - 20%
- One book presentation (see the “optional reading”-list for suggested books) - 20%
- Term paper - 20%
- Take-home midterm test - 20%
- Comprehensive oral final test - 20%

Class Participation Grading Rubric

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<th>Excellent participation</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to gain an:
- understanding of contemporary Austrian society and its issues
- understanding of the history of women and the development of female thought from the days of Kinder, Küche, Kirche to the present.

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.

CONTENT:
The session-by-session syllabus depends largely on the students’ choice of books for their reports. It is usually handed out in the second week of the semester.

REQUIRED READINGS:
Fiction
- Rose AUSLÄNDER: The Curse II (short story, 1974)
- Ingeborg BACHMANN: Youth in an Austrian Town (short story, 1961); The Thirtieth Year (short story, 1961); Among Murderers and Madmen (short story, 1961) A Step Towards Gomorrha (short story, 1961); selected poetry and essays.
RECOMMENDED READINGS:

**Fiction:** (A selection for book reports, more available)

- Ilse AICHINGER: Herod’s Children (1948)
- Ingeborg BACHMANN: Malina (1971, F); The Franz Case (1979)
- Barbara FRISCHMUTH: The Shadow Disappears in the Sun (1973)
- Marianne GRUBER: Sphere of Glass (1981); Death of the Plover (1991)
- Peter HANDKE: The Left-Handed Woman (1976)
- Marlen HAUSHOFER: The Wall (1963)
- Ruth KLÜGER: still alive. coming of age... (weiter leben.) (autobiography, 1992)
- Friederike MAYRÖCKER: Night Train (1984)
- Anna MITGUTSCH: Three Daughters (1985);
- Jakob (1989); In Foreign Cities (1992); House of Childhood (2000)
- Felix MITTERER: The Wild Woman (play, 1991)
- Kathrin RÖGLA: we never sleep (2004)
- **Jutta / Julian SCHUTTING: Am Morgen vor der Reise (1978)**
- Brigitte SCHWAIGER: Why is There Salt in the Sea? (1974, F)
- **Hilde SPIEL: Lisas Zimmer (1965)**
- Marlene STREERUWITZ: Seductions (1996)

**Non-Fiction**


OTHER RESOURCES:
Film
Michael HANEKE: The Piano teacher (2001; L: Elfriede Jelinek)