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## SYLLABUS

# **UNIFIED REGIONS - SEPARATED NATIONS - EUROPEAN UNION UNIFIED: CENTRAL EUROPEAN HISTORY IN THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES**

**Dr. Gregory Weeks**

**Contact Hours: 45**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

### **Course Description:**

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the political, social, and cultural history of the Central European region from the last decades of the Habsburg Monarchy to the present, including explanations of the political structure of the Habsburg Monarchy, the new political order after World War I, the rise of National Socialism, World War II, the Cold War, the communist regimes in the region, and the political changes from 1989 up to the integration of most of the Central European countries into the European Union. Austria and Vienna, as the state/the city where the course is held and where the students will live, will be for practical reasons one of the main topics, but this will be presented within the broad framework of the entire Central European region and its history.

### **Course Objectives:**

#### **A. Instructional Goals.**

The instructor will introduce students to the political, social and cultural history of the Central European region from the last decades of the Habsburg Monarchy up to the present.

#### **B. Student Outcomes.**

Students who successfully complete this course will know more about the political changes from the Habsburg Monarchy up to the integration of most of Central European countries into the EU (including the change in order after WWI, rise of National Socialism, WWII, the Cold War, and communist regimes).

**Instructional Methods:**

Classroom instruction will include lectures, student presentations, reading and interpretation of texts, presentations by guests, group work on different topics, and discussions. A special focus will be the use of visual material (films). Field trips to relevant historical sites and museums in Vienna will help the students visualize the contents of the course.

**Evaluation:**

Regular attendance and participation, individual presentations based on additional materials, paper, midterm, and final exam.

**Final Grade:**

Class Participation: 10 percent

Film Response Papers and Presentation,: 15 percent

Written Midterm Exam: 20 percent

Written Final Exam: 30 percent

Paper: 25 percent

(10 pages, incl. footnotes and a list of all sources used)

**Eligibility:** 300-Level Course

**Required Texts (These will be provided as a reader):**

1. Steven Beller, *A Concise History of Austria* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006).
2. Lonnie R. Johnson, *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996).
3. Arthur James May, *The Habsburg Monarchy 1867-1914* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1951).
4. Jan Werner Mueller (ed.), *Memory and Power in Post-War Europe: Studies in the Presence of the Past* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).
5. A number of additional materials will be assigned, available on the Web or as soft-copies.

**Course Schedule:**

- History of Austria and Central Europe from WW I to Present.
1. Austria and Central Europe: The Region. General Introduction, present-day states.
  2. The Habsburg Monarchy, its geographical and political structure. The problems of the multinational state with nationalism. Present-day view of the monarchy from the different “follower-states.”
  3. The cultural situation: Fin-de-siècle Vienna, Budapest, Prague. Art and Literature. Social Situation.

4. Guided tour at Wien Museum Karlsplatz (History of Vienna, focus: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries)
5. World War I and the new political structures of Central Europe. The Russian Revolution and its consequences for Central Europe. Social and cultural situation
6. Guided tour at the Heeresgeschichtliches Museum, Vienna
7. The time between the wars: The economic crisis and its political consequences, the Austrian civil war, rising of Totalitarianism, Nazism and the Austrian Anschluss 1938.
8. Guided tour to the Heldenplatz in Vienna and its surroundings.
9. World War II and the new political order after it. The Cold War and the departure of Europe.
10. The input of Jewish culture, traditions of Antisemitism in Central Europe, the Holocaust.
11. Dealing with the Nazi-Era in Austrian culture: Literature and film. The influence of the Nazi years on Austrian post-war politics up to the present. The heritage of Nazism and the war in other countries of Central Europe.
12. Guided Tour: Political Monuments of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in Vienna.
13. Austria under Allied occupation 1945-1955. Communism in Central Europe: Hungary 1956 and Czechoslovakia 1968.
14. Film presentations: "Austria 1953" and "Call to Freedom" (1955).
15. The image of post-war Austria in the Western world: Films: "The Third Man", "The Sound of Music." The Mozart-Country. The role of tourism and the relation to the neighbor-countries in the east and south-east. Discussion of the topics.
16. The developments of 1989 and after: The decline and fall of communism in Central Europe (the "Velvet Revolution"), the Yugoslavian War.
17. Central Europe after 1989: The change of political systems, the rising of new nationalism, the integration into the European Union and the problems of that process.
18. Summary: Austria and Central Europe from 1900 to present.

**Additional Resources:**

*The National Problem in the Habsburg Monarchy in the 19th Century. A Critical Appraisal*, 3 vols. (Austrian History Yearbook), Houston, 1967.

Ivan T. Berend and György Rankí. *East Central Europe in the 19th and 20th Century* (Budapest, 1977)

Timothy Garton Ash, *History of the Present. Essays, Sketches and Dispatches from Europe in the 1990s* (New York, 1999)

Laurence Cole and Daniel L. Unowsky (eds.), *The Limits of Loyalty. Imperial Symbolism, Popular Allegiances and State Patriotism in the Late Habsburg Monarchy* (New York, 2007).

Timothy Garton Ash, *The Uses of Adversity. Essay on the Fate of Central Europe* (New York, 1990).

Brigitte Hamann, *Hitler's Vienna* (New York, 1999)

Lonnie R. Johnson, *Introducing Austria. A Short History* (Riverside 1989).

William M. Johnston, *The Austrian Mind. An Intellectual and Social History 1848-1938* (Berkeley, 1972)

Robert A. Kann, *A History of the Habsburg Empire 1526-1918* (Berkeley 1974).

Inge Lehne and Lonnie R. Johnson, *Vienna. The Past in the Present. A Historical Survey* (Vienna 1985).

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent. Europe's Twentieth Century* (London, 1998).

Robin Okey, *The Habsburg Monarchy 1765-1918: From Enlightenment to Eclipse* (Basingstoke 2001).

Carl E. Schorske, *Fin de siècle Vienna. Politics and Culture* (New York, 1980).

Rolf Steininger (ed.), *Austria in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (New Brunswick and London, 2002).

The majority of the contextual literature is not English; much is in German. All required course readings will be in English. All above mentioned titles (and many more) should be available at the Austrian National Library in Vienna.