

## SYLLABUS

### **FIN-DE-SIECLE VIENNA AND ITS CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Instructor: Mag. Markus Schoen**

**Contact Hrs: 45**

**Language of Instruction: English**

### **VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Austro-Hungarian Empire - with all its inner-conflicts and cultural diversity – provided fertile ground for a multitude of creative talents, based mainly in the capital Vienna.

During the last decades of the reign of Kaiser Franz Josef I, Vienna experienced a final boom as the cultural center of a perishing Empire. There was an unbelievable variety in all areas of intellectual life: both in science and art.

*Fine-de-siècle* Vienna is the time of Sigmund Freud, the composers Gustav Mahler and Arnold Schoenberg, the architects Otto Wagner, Josef Hoffmann and Adolf Loos. It is the period of scandals caused by the art of Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka.

The course will examine the sources of inspiration of that period and trace its importance in world culture. As the course intends to convey an image of the time in all its complexity it will foster an interdisciplinary approach including history, fine arts, architecture, psychology, literature, philosophy and music.

#### **Course objectives**

- The students are expected to become proficient in understanding the importance of one of the most diverse and dynamic periods in the history of art-*Fin-de-siècle* Vienna
- The course will stimulate critical thinking, analytical skills, and modern interpretation of the cultural events at the turn of 19th century
- The students will be equipped with a deeper understanding of present day Vienna and its society, molded by its glorious past.

#### **Instructional Methodology**

A wide variety of methods will be applied during this course. Classroom activities will include lectures, presentations of visual materials and discussions.

Periodically the students will make field trips to important cultural sites and museums which will help them to gain a deeper understanding of that period.

#### **Method of Evaluation**

Class Participation 40%

Midterm exam 30%

Final exam and paper 30%

#### **Course outline**

- The Austro-Hungarian Empire at the turn of the century: between reality and illusion; *Fin-de-siècle* Vienna, its cultural movements as a symbol of a new age.
- 'To every Age its Art, To Art its Freedom!': The Foundation of the Viennese Secession, Gustav Klimt and his associates.
- Viennese Expressionism: Oskar Kokoschka, Egon Schiele, Richard Gerstl and other contemporaries.

- Viennese architecture and applied arts at the turn of the 19th century: Otto Wagner, the 'Wiener Werkstaette' and its members, Joseph Maria Olbrich, Adolf Loss etc.
- Politics and culture: Vienna as Freud's city, philosophy, Viennese coffeehouse literature ('Young Vienna'), music (Gustav Mahler, Arnold Schoenberg etc.).
- World War I and its devastating influence on the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Vienna
- Conclusions

### **Recommended Texts**

1. Neret, Gilles. *Gustav Klimt*
2. Schorske, Carl E. *Fin-de-siecle Vienna*.
3. Varnedoe, Karl. *Vienna 1900. Art, Architecture & Design*.
4. Vergo, Peter. *Art in Vienna 1898-1918. Klimt. Kokoschka, Schiele and other contemporaries*.

### **Additional Literature:**

- Brook-Sheperd, Gordon. *The Austrians: a Thousand-Year Odyssey*.
- Gay, Peter. *Freund: a Life for Our Time*.
- Gustav Klimt: *The Beethoven Frieze and the Controversy over the Freedom of Art*. (Ed. Stephan Koja).
- Janik, Allan & Toulmin, Stephen. *Wittgenstein's Vienna*.
- Kallir, Jane. *Viennese Design and the Wiener Werkstatte*.
- Kijiro Ohra & Gustav Klimt. *A Visit to Klimt in Vienna*.
- *The Studio at Unter-St. Veit, Vienna*.
- Koja, Stephan. *Gustav Klimt Landscapes*.
- Kransel, Nina. *Gustav Klimt*.
- Lambourne, Leonel. *Japonisme*.
- Schroder, Klaus Albrecht. *Egon Schiele. Eros and Passion. Secession. Gustav Klimt*.
- Smith, Duncan J.D. *Only in Vienna*.
- Steiner, Reinhard. *Schiele*.
- Stenthal, Barbara. *Gustav Klimt 1862-1918. Myth and Truth*.
- Whitford, Frank. *Egon Schiele*.
- Whitford, Frank. *Klimt*.
- Wichmann, Siegfried. *Japonisme. The Japanese influence on Western art since 1858*.
- Zweig, Stefan. *The World of Yesterday*.