

Sex, Freud and Morality: The History and Culture of 1900 Vienna

Honors Course: Hist 217 – 3 credit hours (15 students)
Course Instructor: Dr. Kevin Callahan (Department of History)
Saint Joseph College, CT
College Honors Program
Director: Dr. Agnes Curry

Course Description: What would it be like to live in a culture fascinated by sexuality, yet where sex remains a taboo? Are we still living in this type of world today? The time and place of this paradox is 1900 Vienna, Austria, yet its legacy continues to shape our attitudes and assumptions about sex and gender roles. In this course, students engage from an interdisciplinary approach the history and culture of 1900 Vienna, where tradition and modernity clashed. Topics include Victorian sexuality, sex and social classes, sex and race, sex and politics, the theme of sex in cultural productions, and the role of sex in Freudian psychology.

Texts:

Readings and Excerpted Readings:

Carl E. Schorske, *Fin-de-Siecle Vienna: Politics and Culture*
Adelheid Popp, *The Autobiography of a Working-Class Woman*
Sigmund Freud, *Dora: An Analysis of a Case of Hysteria*
Arthur Schnitzler, *Hands Around*
Arthur Schnitzler, *The Road Into The Open*
Oscar Wilde, *Salome*
Jill Knight Weinberger, *Vienna Voices*
The Memoirs of Vicki Baum, *It Was All Quite Different Then*
Stefan Zweig, *An Autobiography: The World of Yesterday*
Adolph Hitler, *Mein Kampf*
Otto Weininger, *Sex and Character*

Movies/Videos on Reserve:

"Before Sunrise," "The Illusionist," "Vienna 1900," "History of Sex IV," "La Ronde," "Salome," "Die Fledermaus," "Der Rosenkavalier," "The Third Man"

Syllabus

Date	Topic
Part I: Sex, Politics, and Social Classes of 1900 Vienna	
Week 1 - Introduction	
29 Aug	Introduction
31 Aug	Groups Meet to Organize Assignment: Organize Groups and Learn What You Can About 1900 Vienna and Contemporary Vienna.
Week 2 - 1900 Vienna	
3 Sept	LABOR DAY
5 Sept	Movie: "Before Sunrise" or "The Illusionist"/Groups Meet to Organize
7 Sept	Groups Meet to Organize

	Week 3 Imperial Vienna
10 Sept	Discussion of "Before Sunrise"/"The Illusionist"/Groups Meet to Organize First Reflection Paper: Write a Movie Review of Before Sunrise or Illusionist
12 Sept	Group Presentations
14 Sept	The City Reading: Stefan Zweig, 1-5, 12-20, 24-27
	Week 4 - Middle-Class Vienna
17 Sept	The Habsburg Dynasty and Elizabeth: Empress of Austria Recommended Videos: "Die Fledermaus" and "Der Rosenkavalier"
19 Sept	Austrian Liberalism/Middle-Class Values/Video "Vienna 1900"
21 Sept	Vienna Transformed: The Ringstrasse Reading: Schorske, 24-62
	Week 5 - Prostitution & Middle-Class Morality
24 Sept	Education, Conformity, and Morality Reading: Stefan Zweig, 28-42
26 Sept	Video: "History of Sex IV: Victorian Sexuality" Second Reflection Paper Due!
28 Sept	19th-Century Prostitution Reading: Stefan Zweig, 67-91
	Week 6 - The Working Class
1 Oct	Industrialization and Socialism Reading: Popp, 15-53
3 Oct	A Working-Class Woman: Adelheid Popp Reading: Popp, 54 to end of excerpt
5 Oct	Decline of Political Liberalism I: The Woman Question, Austrian Feminism, and Misogyny Reading: Baum, 168-169, 176-190; Weininger excerpt
	Week 7 - The Decline of Political Liberalism
8 Oct	Faculty Development Day
10 Oct	Decline of Political Liberalism II: Sex and Race, Anti-Semitism and Zionism Reading: Adolph Hitler excerpt; Schorske, 116-181 Third Reflection Paper Due!
12 Oct	Midterm Review
	Week 8 - The Crisis of the Middle Class
15 Oct	Midterm Exam
	Part II: Sex & Culture in 1900 Vienna: The Birth of the Modern Age
17 Oct	The Viennese Middle Class in Crisis in 1900 Vienna Reading: Schorske, 3-10; Schnitzler, <i>Road into the Open</i> , Introduction
19 Oct	Sigmund Freud's Vienna Reading: Freud Biography Excerpt
	Week 9 - Sex & Psychology
22 Oct	Video: "Sigmund Freud: Analysis of a Mind"/Overview of Freudian Concepts Reading: Freud, <i>Dora</i> 8-32

24 Oct	Dora: A Case of Hysteria Reading: Freud, 33-55 (First Dream optional)
26 Oct	<i>Dora/The Road into the Open</i> Reading: Schnitzler, 1
	Week 10 - Sex & Literature
29 Oct	<i>The Road into the Open</i> Reading: Schnitzler, Chapter 2-3
31 Oct	"History of Sex, Part I" or Reading Day Reading: Schnitzler, 4
2 Nov	<i>The Road into the Open</i> Reading: Schnitzler, 5 Fourth Reflection Paper Due!
	Week 11 - Sex & Literature
5 Nov	<i>The Road into the Open</i> Reading: Schnitzler, 6-7
7 Nov	<i>The Road into the Open</i> Reading: Schnitzler, 8 (chapter 9 optional)
9 Nov	Movie/"La Ronde" Reading: <i>Start Hands Around</i>
	Week 12 - Sex & Theatre
12 Nov	"La Ronde" Reading: Finish <i>Hands Around</i> Fifth Reflection Paper Due!
14 Nov	Opera: "Salome" Reading: Read <i>Salome</i>
16 Nov	Opera: "Salome" Reading: Read <i>Salome</i>
	Week 13 - Sex & Opera
19 Nov	<i>Salome</i> Reading: Finish <i>Salome</i>
21-23 Nov	Thanksgiving Break Reading: Start Schorske chapter on Klimt
	Week 14 - Sex & Art
26 Nov	Gustav Klimt Reading: Continue Schorske chapter on Klimt
28 Nov	Gustav Klimt Reading: Continue Schorske chapter on Klimt
30 Nov	Oksar Kokoschka Reading: Schorske, 322-344
	Week 15 Sex & Art
3 Dec	"City of the Dead": Presentation by author Jill Knight Weinberger Reading: Excerpt from <i>Vienna Voices</i>
5 Dec	Wild Card Day

7 Dec	Final Exam Review Sixth Reflection Paper Due!
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Grading Policies:

Participation (33%): Participation means doing the readings conscientiously, being prepared to discuss them, willing to work in small-group discussions and activities, and being an active listener. Part of this grade will include our group presentation project during the first two weeks. Attendance will be taken regularly.

Midterm/Final Exam (33%): The mid-term/final exam will consist of two short essay questions and short identification terms. A list of sample essay questions and IDs, compiled with the assistance of the class, will be provided.

Reflection/Response Papers or Research Paper (33%) Students will write at least six 1½ -2 page (or longer) papers, which are commentaries that respond to some central issue(s) raised in the reading assignments (or historical documents, films, or class lectures/discussions). In lieu of the response/reflection papers, advanced students are encouraged to write a research paper in consultation with the instructor.

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