

Vienna's Literature around 1900 and its Cinematic Reception

Wynfrid Kriegleder

February 5 – 16, 2024

4 ECTS

Course Description

Around 1900 the literary scene in Vienna was highly complex. An especially interesting group of writers was the "Young Vienna" school, who embraced modern developments like psychoanalysis and dealt with formerly taboo topics like human sexuality. The course will concentrate on these authors.

We will chiefly deal with Arthur Schnitzler, who wrote theater plays and stories, but we will also spend time talking about other writers like Hugo von Hofmannsthal. Besides, we will talk about the issues discussed in Vienna around 1900: the ideas of Sigmund Freud, questions of national and sexual identity, antisemitism, the social situation in the Austro-Hungarian Empire before and after the First World War.

Participants will have to read and discuss a few literary texts (which will be provided to the participants in an English translation), for instance *Der Reigen (La Ronde)* or *Traumnovelle (Dream Story)* by Arthur Schnitzler. Furthermore, we will watch and discuss some film adaptations from different eras and countries, including Stanley Kubrick's *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999), which was based on the *Dream Story*, or versions of *La Ronde*, which was filmed a total of six times between 1950 and 2013. We will compare the films to the original texts.

Requirements: **Attendance and participation** in class discussion constitute 30%, **reading the required literary texts and short presentations** 30% and a **written final** (essay-type) 40% of the grade.

Syllabus

1st week

Monday, February 5, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Literature in Vienna around 1900 – General Information: Austrian History and Culture, the "Young Vienna"-Group.
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Viennese authors: Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Karl Kraus, Otto Weininger. The First World War.
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Arthur Schnitzler, <i>La Ronde</i> , classroom reading.
Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Arthur Schnitzler, <i>La Ronde</i> , classroom reading.
Friday, February 9, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Lecture on Anti-Semitism in Vienna, the army and their honor code. Classroom reading of Arthur Schnitzler, <i>Lieutenant Gustl</i> .

HAVE A NICE WEEKEND

2nd week

Monday, February 12, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Lecture on Literature and National Identity. Classroom reading of Arthur Schnitzler, <i>Lieutenant Gustl</i> .
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Classroom reading of Arthur Schnitzler, <i>Dream Novella</i> . Lecture on the history of the genre "Novella".
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 2:00 – 4:00 am	Film screening: Stanley Kubrick: <i>Eyes Wide Shut</i>

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Classroom reading of Arthur Schnitzler, <i>Dream Novella</i> . Comparison with the film <i>Eyes Wide Shut</i> .
Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Short Paper due. Summing up the Course. Lecture on the history of European narrative literature, on past and contemporary Austrian society.
Friday, February 16, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Individual discussion with each student of their short paper.