

Society, Politics and Daily Life in Fin-de-siècle Vienna (Online Course)

[Karl Vocelka](#)

February 8 – 19, 2021

4 ECTS

Course Description

The course covers the period from the 1860s to 1918 in the capital of the Habsburg Monarchy Vienna and deals also partly with the interwar period.

In the first part, the social system (dynasty, nobility, ennobled bourgeoisie, bourgeoisie, workers and outsiders) is discussed intensively. Education and social behavior of each social group are discussed.

In the second part, the politics of the city of Vienna during this period is analyzed (city expansion and improvement of the infrastructure, the administration of the city, the parties and their programs, etc.).

The third part centers on education, medical care and its progress, the emancipation of minorities and especially women.

The fourth part examines some exemplary aspects of everyday life in its social differentiation, topics such as living, dressing, eating and drinking, as well as amusement and participation in social events and sports will be the focus.

Requirements and grading: There will be three small written assignments (essays with a minimum of 1,500 characters), two during the first week and one during the second week, based on questions on the topics covered in class and the readings.

A final paper on a topic of the student's choice (in consultation with the lecturer) in the form of an essay (minimum 6,000 characters) has to be submitted.

The grading is based on participation, during class or via email (20%), the three assignments (30%) and the final paper (50%).

Syllabus

1st week

Monday, February 8, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Short history of the Habsburg monarchy
Territories and nations of the monarchy

Tuesday, February 9, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

The social structure of Vienna and its impact on culture I
The Habsburg Dynasty – the High Nobility

Wednesday, February 10, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

The social structure of Vienna and its impact on culture II
The second society (ennobled members of the bourgeois class, bourgeoisie, handicrafts, workers, outsiders)
Differences in education and in social behavior

Thursday, February 11, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Vienna: demographic development, industrialization, growth of Vienna and the integration of suburbs in the city

Friday, February 12, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

The political parties and the administration in Vienna – infrastructural progress of the City in the fin-de-siècle period

HAVE A NICE WEEKEND

2nd week

Monday, February 15, 2021
8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)

Melting-pot Vienna – Czechs, Jews, radical antisemitism

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)	Education and educational institutions – female emancipation – medical care and Second Viennese School of Medicine.
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)	Housing as a social phenomenon – from the Emperor’s palace to homeless people
Thursday, February 18, 2021 8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)	Food and nutrition (markets, grocery stores, preferred ingredients, Viennese signature dishes) Beverage (wine and beer) Restaurants and coffee houses
Friday, February 19, 2021 8:30 – 10:30 am (CET)	Clothing as an indicator of society, the change of shopping behavior (department stores) Amusement and participation in social events, sports

List of proposals for the final paper

(Students can, with permission of the lecturer, also deal with a different topic of their own choosing.)

Dealing with nature in the surroundings of Vienna

Gardens

Family structure

Woman's role

Piety

Sexuality

Death and burial

Behaviors and courtesy

Viennese fashion

Living and furnishings

Travel and holidays

Books and libraries

House music

Concerts

Opera

Theatre

Balls

Markets and their offer

Shops in Vienna