

# Society, Politics, and Daily Life in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna

Karl Vocelka

February 5 – 16, 2024

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: The grading is based on participation during class (20%), a short paper (40%) and the written final exam (essay type) (40%).

## Syllabus

### 1<sup>st</sup> week

Monday, February 5, 2024  
8:30 – 10:30 am

The social structure of Vienna and its impact on culture I  
*Reading: Social structures*

Tuesday, February 6, 2024  
8:30 – 10:30 am

The social structure of Vienna and its impact on culture II

Tuesday, February 6, 2024  
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Excursion: Wien Museum

Wednesday, February 7, 2024  
8:30 – 10:30 am

Demographic development – industrialization – growth of Vienna and the integration of suburbs to the city

*Reading: Agrarian, demographic and industrial revolution*

Thursday, February 8, 2024  
8:30 – 10:30 am

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

*Reading: 1. Constitution and political parties; 2. The political system; 3. The national problem*

Friday, February 9, 2024  
8:30 – 10:30 am

Different forms of discrimination – poor people – “Melting-pot Vienna” –  
Jewish Vienna and radical antisemitism – The Czechs Minority

*Reading: 1. The national problem, 2. National and religious minorities*

HAVE A NICE WEEKEND

### 2<sup>nd</sup> week

Monday, February 12, 2024  
8:30 – 10:30 am

Education and educational institutions – female emancipation

*Reading: 1. Education; 2. Female emancipation; 3. Technology – science – education; 4. Medical science – education – emancipation;*

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Housing as a social phenomenon – from the Emperor’s palace to homeless people <i>Reading: 1. Accommodation</i>
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Food: nutrition (markets, Viennese signature dishes) Beverage (wine and beer), Restaurants and coffee houses <i>Reading: 1. Beverage consumption; 2. Food consumption</i>
Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Amusement and participation in social events, <i>Reading 1. Clothing and Fashion; 2 Participation in social life</i>
Friday, February 16, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	FINALS

### List of proposals for the final paper

The paper should treat one aspect of cultural life, maybe in comparison to your country. The paper should be around two to three pages long.

Here you find a list of possible topics:

Dealing with nature in the surroundings of Vienna

Gardens

Family structure

Woman's role

Sexuality

Death and burial

Behaviors and courtesy

Clothes as a social indicator

Living and furnishings

Travel and holidays

Books and libraries

House music

Concerts

Opera

Theatre

Balls

Markets and their offer

Shops in Vienna

Piety