

# 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 paper (30%) and the final exam (essay type) (50%). The paper can be written on a topic of the student's choice (in consultation with the lecturer) in the form of an essay (minimum 6,000 characters).

## Syllabus

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

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

Short history of the Habsburg monarchy  
Territories and nations of the monarchy  
*Reading: Survey of Austrian history*

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

The social structure of Vienna and its impact on culture I  
The Habsburg Dynasty – the High Nobility  
*Reading: Agrarian, demographic and industrial revolution*

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

Excursion: Wien Museum

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

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  
*Reading: Social structures*

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

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

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

The political parties and the administration in Vienna – infrastructural progress of the City in the fin-de-siècle period  
*Reading: 1. Constitution and political parties; 2. The political system;*

HAVE A NICE WEEKEND

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

Monday, February 12, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	National problem - Melting-pot Vienna – Czechs, Jews, radical antisemitism <i>Reading: 1. National and religious minorities; 2. The national problem;</i>
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Education and educational institutions – female emancipation – medical care and Second Viennese School of Medicine. <i>Reading: 1. Education; 2. Female emancipation; 3. Technology – science – education; 4. Medical science – education – emancipation;</i>
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Housing as a social phenomenon – from the emperor’s palace to homeless people Clothing as an indicator of society, the change of shopping behavior (department stores) Amusement and participation in social events, sports <i>Reading: 1. Accommodation; 2. Clothing and Fashion; 3. Participation in social life;</i>
Thursday, February 15, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	Food and nutrition (markets, grocery stores, preferred ingredients, Viennese signature dishes) Beverage (wine and beer) Restaurants and coffee houses <i>Reading: 1. Food consumption; 2. Beverage consumption;</i>
Friday, February 16, 2024 8:30 – 10:30 am	FINALS

### 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