Syllabus – IDIS 350P

Spring 2014

Study Abroad ~ Austrian Culture in Vienna

**I. General Information:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Travel Time:** | March 1-8 (Spring Break), 2014 |
| **Preliminary Itinerary:** | 3/1 Leave U.S. (group flight: IAD - VIE)3/2 Arrive in Vienna, transfer to hotel, lunch in town, general tour of Vienna  (major sites and architecture), check-in hostel, welcome dinner 3/3 Café Central, the Prater, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Secession 3/4 Schloss Schönbrunn und Tiergarten, Hofburg (Heldenplatz:  Kaiserresidenz and Kunstkammer), Staatsoper, Stephansdom3/5 Visit of former Mauthausen concentration camp3/6 Jewish Museum and Museum Judenplatz, Kunst Haus Wien, free time for  individual exploring3/7 Cafe Griensteidl and sharing of travel diaries, Stadtpark, Sigmund Freud  Museum, farewell dinner3/8 Airport and return flight to IAD |

**II. Brief Description and Learning Goals:**

**Brief Description:**

This study abroad course offers students the opportunity to experience one of the great European cities – Vienna, the capital of Austria and former capital of the Austro-Hungarian empire – and to visit many of the city’s most iconic sites. Home to many famous artists, writers, musicians, and thinkers, including Sigmund Freud, Gustav Klimt, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Arthur Schnitzler, Theodor Herzl, and Gustav Mahler, Vienna is a city with an extraordinarily rich cultural and historical past. Students will explore the city’s parks, museums, and key historical sites while also enjoying Viennese life and cuisine – we will visit, for example, a few cafés that were earlier frequented by Viennese literary legends. We will also spend one day visiting Mauthausen, the infamous concentration camp not far from Vienna, along with its museum and memorials. Students will keep a daily travel diary in which they will record impressions and interesting discoveries, and will also write a final paper on a Viennese figure of their choice.

**Learning Goals:**

1. To introduce students to the history and culture of Vienna
2. To allow students to personally experience the city by visiting many of the city’s important sites, museums, and public spaces
3. To guide the students toward an understanding of Vienna as a European, as well as an Austrian, city
4. To encourage students to engage creatively and personally with the city by asking them to keep a travel diary during their time in Vienna. They will later have the opportunity to share select entries with each other and with me
5. To help students to develop their interests in particular art forms and cultural / historical phenomena by asking them to select, at the end of the course, a specific historical, literary, artistic, or musical figure from Vienna’s past and to discuss this individual’s life and contribution to Viennese (and European) culture in a final paper

**III. Course Requirements and Criteria for Grading:**

1. Regular attendance and active participation 40%

2. Travel diary 30%

3. Final paper (10 pages) 30%

**1. Attendance and Class participation**

Attendance and active participation in all scheduled site visits is an issue of utmost importance. Please note that just attending the visits is not considered evidence of “good participation," rather it is a prerequisite.You must be attentive and engaged, and must write faithfully in your travel diary. You must be willing, finally, to share your experiences and observations with your peers and with me at the end of the trip.

**2. Travel diary**

You are required to keep a travel diary during our time in Vienna. The purpose of this diary is to not only record each day’s events but to make notes of particular impressions, ideas, and things that you have learned. On the final morning of our trip we will visit Café Griensteidl and, over coffee and cake, in good Viennese style and following literary tradition, we will share with each other selections from our travel diaries. Literary output varies, of course, but I would assume that at least two pages a day would be fitting (I will check diaries for thoroughness at the end of the trip).

**3. Final Paper**

Your final paper will explore a Viennese figure of your choice and will examine this individual’s

life and contribution. It is important to place this figure within his / her historical and cultural context and to engage with the qualities of this person that make him / her both unique and signfiicant to Viennese – and, in the larger context, European – culture. This final paper will ideally also possess a personal dimension in that you will use it as a vehicle to learn more about an art form or cultural / historical event that interests you.

* The paper must be typed, double-spaced, and use Time New Roman 12-point font. It must include page numbers and a cover sheet with your name, paper title, and course number. Please use a minimum of 8 sources (two may be websites) and follow MLA citation style.
* The paper is due on the last day of classes of the semester by 5 pm.
* The paper will be given a letter grade based on thoughtfulness and depth of content, overall organization and coherence.

All work in this course is subject to the Honor Code. All written assignments and tests must be pledged.

**Grading Scale:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A 100-94%  | B+ 89-87% | C+ 79-77% | D+ 69-67% | F 59-0% |
| A- 93-90% | B 86-83% | C 76-73% | D 66-63% |  |
|  | B- 82-80% | C- 72-70% | D- 62-60% |  |

**4. Disability Statement**

The Office of Disability Services has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you receive services through that office and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Bring your accommodation letter with you to the appointment. I will hold any information you share with me in the strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise.

**5. Ground Rules for Behavior on the trip**

**Always:**

* Attend visits
* Be punctual
* Wear appropriate clothes for visits
* Bring pens, notepaper
* Be aware that you represent not only yourself on this trip but also UMW and the U.S.

**Never:**

* Leave the group or hotel unless dismissed
* Behave inappropriately (engage in screaming, shouting, violent behavior)
* Use your cell phone while visiting a museum or memorial site

Violation of these rules may lead to dismissal from the trip, no credit will be awarded.