

Interdepartmental Graduate Seminar 653
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**GSEM 653:
Fractured Foundations:
Empire's Ends and Modernism's Beginnings.
The Case of Vienna 1900.**

The interests of this interdisciplinary seminar are situated at the juncture of gender, race, nation, and history in narratives of modernity. Gender and race are deeply embedded in these narratives, and yet they remain blind spots in the story Western modernity tells about itself. Gender and race can function as foundational categories in modern notions of nation precisely because their working mechanisms remain concealed in the tales and art works modernity fashions to make sense of itself. The seeming universality of modernist master narratives is bought at the expense of repressing the particularities upon which the narratives hinge. We are interested in the points at which this repression breaks down and where modernity's story loses its cohesion. When the smooth façade of grand narratives—presented in the form of literature, art works, or philosophical or scientific discourse—begins to crack, the structures used to prop it up are revealed. Thus, our seminar will focus on Viennese Modernism, a culture that emerges against the backdrop of a weakened empire whose fractured state is mirrored in both this culture's forms and its contents.

Available for purchase at the Bryn Mawr College Bookshop:

Sigmund Freud, *Moses and Monotheism*.

Hugo von Hofmannsthal, *The Lord Chandos Letter*.

Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture*.

All other readings will be made available on Blackboard, in photocopied form, or on our course reserve in Carpenter Library.

The seminar will feature an excursion to the Klimt exhibit at the Neue Galerie in New York City, as well as a lecture and discussion forum held by a visiting scholar.

In addition to participating regularly in our seminar discussions, you will be expected to give a presentation and to write a research paper at the end of the semester. Your presentation can serve as a preparation for the process of writing the research paper. We will also open up the discussion board section on Blackboard. The discussion board can serve as an opportunity for dialogue beyond the classroom. We also ask that every seminar participant, in advance of every seminar meeting, post at least one question or comment about one of the readings or art works on the syllabus for a given week. In this way, your questions and comments can help guide our seminar conversations.

January 24: General Introduction

Organizational issues
Structure and goals of the seminar
Introduction to the seminar's topic
Readings: Franz Kafka, "The Great Wall of China" (1931)

January 31: Empire and Modernity

Readings: Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno, "Odysseus or Myth and Enlightenment," from *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (1944)
Enrique Dussel, "Beyond Eurocentrism: The World-System and the Limits of Modernity" (1998)
Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, "Two Europes, Two Modernities," from *Empire* (2000)
Background text: Barbara Jelavich, from *Modern Austria* (1987):
"Part I: The Habsburg Empire"

February 7: Nationalism and Orientalism

Readings: Edward Said, excerpts from *Orientalism* (1979)
Benedict Anderson, excerpts from *Imagined Communities* (1983)
Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Time of History and the Times of Gods" (1997)
Alois Riegl, "Late Roman or Oriental?" (1902)
Margaret Olin, "Alois Riegl: The Late Roman Empire in the Late Habsburg Empire" (1994)
Talinn Grigor, "'Orient oder Rom?' Qajar 'Aryan' Architecture And Strzygowski's Art History" (2007)
Background text: Carl Schorske, from *Fin-de-siècle Vienna*:
"Introduction" (1980)

February 14: Representing Gender: The Example of Arthur Schnitzler

Readings: Schnitzler, *Lieutenant Gustl* (1900)
The Lonely Way (1904)
Schorske, from *Fin-de-siècle Vienna*: Chapter I: "Politics and the Psyche: Schnitzler and Hofmannsthal"
George Mosse, from *The Image of Man: The Creation of Modern Masculinity*: "Masculinity in Crisis: The Decadence" (1996)
Andreas Huyssen, "The Disturbance of Vision in Vienna Modernism" (1998)

February 21: No class—Please prepare for field trip the following day!

Readings: John Updike, "New Kind on the Block" (2002)
"Gold & Geld" (2007)
Exhibition Catalogue: *Gustav Klimt: The Ronald S. Lauder and Serge Sabarsky Collections* (2007)

February 22: Field Trip

Excursion to New York City: The Klimt Exhibit at the *Neue Galerie*

February 28: Gustav Klimt

The Secession

Readings: M.E. Warlick, "Mythic Rebirth in Gustav Klimt's Stoclet Frieze: New Considerations of Its Egyptianizing Form and Content" (1992)

Tina Marlowe-Storkovich, "'Medicine' by Gustav Klimt" (2003)

Debra Schafer, from *The Order of Ornament, the Structure of Style: Theoretical Foundations of Modern Art and Architecture*: Chapter 4: "Visual Evidence" (2003)

Background text: Schorske, from *Fin-de-siècle Vienna*: Chapter V: "Gustav Klimt: Painting and the Crisis of the Liberal Ego"

March 6: Ornament and Ornamentation

Readings: Alois Riegl, Introduction to *Problems of Style* (1893)

Margaret Iverson, excerpts from *Alois Riegl: Art History and Theory* (1993)

Adolf Loos, "Ornament and Crime" (1929)

Allan Janik and Stephen Toulmin, from *Wittgenstein's Vienna*: "Adolf Loos and the Struggle Against Ornament" (1973)

Hal Foster, "Design and Crime" (2003)

Patrizia McBride, "'In Praise of the Present: Adolf Loos on Style and Fashion'" (2004)

Leslie Topp, "An Architecture for Modern Nerves: Josef Hoffmann's Purkersdorf Sanatorium" (1997)

Background text: Schorske, from *Fin-de-siècle Vienna*: Chapter II: "The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism"

March 13: Spring Break

March 20: The Fragmentation of the Bourgeois Subject:
Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Sigmund Freud

Readings: Hofmannsthal, “The Fairy Tale of the 672nd Night” (1895)
“A Tale of the Cavalry” (1898)
“A Letter” (1902)
Freud, *The Uncanny* (1919)
Richard Gray, “The ‘Uncanniness’ of Freud’s
Hermeneutics” (1995)
Dorrit Cohn, “Als Traum erzählt’: The Case for a Freudian
Reading of Hofmannsthal’s ‘Märchen der 672.
Nacht’” (1980)
Hermann Broch, excerpts from *Hofmannsthal and His
Age* (1947/48)

March 27: Misogyny and Anti-Semitism:
The Case of Otto Weininger

Readings: Weininger, excerpts from *Sex and Character* (1903)
Massimo Cacciari, from *Posthumous People: Vienna at the
Turning Point*: “Weibliches” and
“The Eternal Child” (1980)
Jacques Le Rider, “‘The Otto Weininger Case’ Revisited” (1995)
John Hoberman, “Otto Weininger and the Critique of
Jewish Masculinity” (1995)
Misha Kavka, “The ‘Alluring Abyss of Nothingness’: Misogyny
and (Male) Hysteria in Otto Weininger” (1995)
Matti Bunzl, “Sexual Modernity as Subject and Object” (2002)

April 3: Misogyny and Anti-Semitism:
The Case of Oskar Kokoschka

Readings: Kokoschka, *Murderer, Hope of Women* (1907/1910)
Bettina Knapp, “Oskar Kokoschka’s *Murderer, Hope of
Womankind: An Apocalyptic Experience*” (1983)
Claude Cernuschi, “Pseudo-Science and Mythic Misogyny: Oskar
Kokoschka’s *Murderer, Hope of Women*” (1999)
Catherine Soussloff, “Portraiture and Assimilation in Vienna: The
Case of Hans Tietze and Erica Tietze-Conrat”
(2002)
Background text: Schorske, from *Fin-de-siècle Vienna*: Chapter VII: “Explosion
in the Garden: Kokoschka and Schoenberg”

April 10: Re-presenting the Past: Sigmund Freud

Readings: Freud, "The Moses of Michelangelo" (1914)

"Moses and Monotheism" (1939)

Carl Schorske, "To the Egyptian Dig: Freud's Psycho-
Archeology of Cultures" (1998)

Eric Santner, "Freud's Moses and the Ethics of Nomotropic
Desire" (1999)

John Milfull, "Freud, Moses, and Jewish Identity" (2002)

Aviva Briefel, "Sacred Objects/Illusory Idols: The Fake in Freud's
'The Moses of Michelangelo'" (2003)

April 17: Narrating Empire and Modernity: Robert Musil

Readings: Musil, excerpts from *The Man Without Qualities* (1931/32)

Stefan Jonsson, "Neither Inside Nor Outside: Subjectivity and
the Spaces of Modernity in Robert Musil's
The Man Without Qualities" (1996)

Patrizia McBride, "The Value of Kitsch: Hermann Broch and
Robert Musil on Art and Morality" (2005)

Mark Freed, "Robert Musil's Other Postmodernism:
Essayismus, Textual Subjectivity, and the
Philosophical Discourse of Modernity" (2007)

April 24: Presentations

May 1: Presentations

Summary and Concluding Discussion