Viennese Modernism emerged against the backdrop of a multi-ethnic and multi-national empire that was increasingly imperiled both by internal strife and by external political and military pressures. The fractured state of the Habsburg Empire is mirrored in the forms and contents of the culture of Vienna around 1900. While the strength and cohesion of the empire were diminishing, ever richer visual, literary, philosophical, and scientific cultures were developing. Art, architecture, theater, literature, philosophy, and psychoanalysis were grappling with the seismic shifts which constructions of gender, family, class, ethnic identity, and religious identity were undergoing as the Habsburg Empire began to crumble. The critical discussions of visual culture, literary works, and psychoanalytic texts (by artists and writers such as Freud, Hofmannsthal, Hoffmann, Klimt, Kokoschka, Loos, Musil, Schiele, Schnitzler, and Weininger) in this interdisciplinary seminar will be framed by theoretical readings on the history and concept of empire.

Available for purchase at the Bryn Mawr College Bookshop:
Peter Altenberg, Ashantee.
Steven Beller, A Concise History of Austria.
Hugo von Hofmannsthal, The Lord Chandos Letter.
Robert Musil, The Confusions of Young Törless.
Arthur Schnitzler, Lieutenant Gustl.
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.
An ARTstor folder for our seminar contains image groups for most seminar meetings (1/19, 2/16, 2/23, 3/1, 3/15, 4/5, 4/12).
The seminar will feature an excursion to the Neue Galerie in New York City and an in-house fieldtrip, as well as a lecture and discussion forum held by art and architectural historian Leslie Topp (Birbeck, University College London, Bryn Mawr Ph.D. ‘98).

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. 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 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. Your Blackboard questions and comments can help guide our seminar conversations.

**January 19: General Introduction**
- Organizational issues
- Structure and goals of the seminar
- Introduction to the seminar’s topic

**January 26: History, Empire and Modernity**
- Readings: Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno, “Odysseus or Myth and Enlightenment,” from *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (1944)

**February 2: Nationalism and Orientalism**
- Readings: Edward Said, excerpts from *Orientalism* (1979)
  - Benedict Anderson, excerpts from *Imagined Communities* (1983)
  - Alois Riegl, “Late Roman or Oriental?” (1902)
  - Margaret Olin, “Alois Riegl: The Late Roman Empire in the Late Habsburg Empire” (1994)
- Further Reading: Talinn Grigor, “‘Orient oder Rom?’ Qajar ‘Aryan’ Architecture and Strzygowski’s Art History” (2007)
- Background Text: Carl Schorske, from *Fin-de-siècle Vienna*: 
February 9: 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)

February 16: Representing Gender: The Example of Gustav Klimt and the Secession
Readings: Schorske, from Fin-de-siècle Vienna: Chapter V: “Gustav Klimt: Painting and the Crisis of the Liberal Ego”
Lisa Florman, “Gustav Klimt and the Precedent of Ancient Greece” (1990)
M.E. Warlick, “Mythic Rebirth in Gustav Klimt’s Stoclet Frieze: New Considerations of Its Egyptianizing Form and Content” (1992)
Doris Guth, “‘This is not a sign of the times, it is a sign of extravagance’: The Scandal Surrounding Gustav Klimt’s Faculty Paintings” (2005)
Further Reading: Debra Schafter, from The Order of Ornament, the Structure of Style: Theoretical Foundations of Modern Art and Architecture: Chapter 4: “Visual Evidence” (2003)

February 23: 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)

Background Texts: Schorske, from *Fin-de-siècle Vienna:*
  Chapter II: “The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism”
Allan Janik and Stephen Toulmin, from *Wittgenstein’s Vienna: “Adolf Loos and the Struggle Against Ornament”* (1973)

**March 1:** 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)
  *Delusion and Dream in W. Jensen’s “Gradiva”* (1907)
  “On Dreams” (excerpts)
Further Readings: Hermann Broch, excerpts from *Hofmannsthal and His Age* (1947/48)

**March 2:** Field Trip to the “Neue Galerie” in New York City

**March 8:** Spring Break

**March 15:** Misogyny and Anti-Semitism:
  Otto Weininger and Oskar Kokoschka
Readings: Weininger, excerpts from *Sex and Character* (1903)
  Kokoschka, *Murderer, Hope of Women* (1907/1910)
Catherine Soussloff, “The Subject at Risk: Jewish Assimilation and Viennese Portraiture” (2006)

Further Readings: Kokoschka, “Three Texts on Portraiture”
Schorske, from Fin-de-siècle Vienna: Chapter VII: Explosion in the Garden: Kokoschka and Schoenberg”

Submit abstract of research paper; please include a list of at least 10 primary and secondary sources.

March 22: Leslie Topp Visit
Readings TBA

March 29: Representing Race and Class:
Peter Altenberg and Arthur Schnitzler
Readings: Altenberg, Ashantee (1897)
Schnitzler, “Andreas Thameyer’s Last Letter” (1900)
Katharina von Hammerstein, “‘Black is Beautiful,’ Viennese Style: Peter Altenberg’s Ashantee” (2007)
Michael Boehringer, “Fantasies of White Masculinity in Arthur Schnitzler’s ‘Andreas Thameyers letzter Brief’ (1900)” (2011)

April 5: In-House Field Trip:
Travel and Ethnographic Photography in the Bryn Mawr College Collections
Homi Bhabha, “Postmodernism/Postcolonialism” (2003)
Nancy Micklewright, “In the Service of Empire: Ottoman Official Photography” (2011)

April 12: Bodies and Sexualities:
Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka
Helen O. Borowitz, “Youth as Metaphor and Image in Wedekind, Kokoschka and Schiele” (1974)
Alessandra Comini, “Toys in Freud’s attic: torment and taboo in the child and adolescent themes of Vienna’s image-makers” (2002)

April 19: Narrating Empire and Modernity:
Robert Musil
Readings: Musil, The Confusions of Young Törleß (1906)
Stanley Corngold, “Patterns of Justification in Young Törless” (1992)
Viewing recommendation: Volker Schlöndorff, Young Törless (film, 1966)

April 26: Presentations Marathon
Summary and Concluding Discussion