
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)

February 7: **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)
  - 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”

February 21: No class—Please prepare for field trip the following day!
  - “Gold & Geld” (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)
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)
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)
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)
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)

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)
Aviva Briefel, “Sacred Objects/Illusory Idols: The Fake in Freud’s

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