

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2019-2020

**GERM 274 - A1 Shaping Modern Austria
(Fall Term)**

Instructor: Dr. Kokorz

Office: 342-B

Fax: 780-492-9106

E-mail: kokorz@ualberta.ca

Personal Website:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/music/people/sessional-faculty/gregor-kokorz>

Time: T, R 11.00-12.20

Place: ED N2 117

Office Hours: R, 12.45-2 PM

or by appointment

Course Website: eClass

Course Prerequisite: none

This course assumes no specific prior knowledge about the topic.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

What is Austria? Who are its people, how do they see themselves and what is Austria's position in the European context? In this course we will focus on Austria in the 20th and 21st century, we will discuss questions of Austrian culture, society and politics using arts, literature and music as a critical prism for analysing and understanding historic developments.

This course will give you a general overview on Austria's history, society and politics and its cultural production in the 20th and 21st century. You will be introduced to keystones of history and politics, and to major Austrian artists and their works. You will further learn to understand the symbolic value and the mechanisms of how culture contributes to the construction of (national) identities.

Course Format: Classes will follow a mixed format of lectures, discussion and student's classroom presentations. Your participation and engagement will be an essential part of the course and important for reaching the goals of this class. You are expected to come to each lecture having read the assigned readings and having prepared to engage in the day's topic.

Texts:

Required

Lonnie Johnson, *Introducing Austria. A short history* (Riverside, CA: Ariadne Press, 1987). The text will be provided on eClass.

Recommended

Oliver Rathkolb, *The Paradoxical Republic. Austria 1945-2005* (New York, Berghahn Books, 2010).

Additional readings and reading assignments will be introduced in class. For further information see the assignment section of this syllabus.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 3, 2019

Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019

50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019

Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019

Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Attendance and participation in class, preparation | 25% |
| 2. Presentation of a cultural Austrian landmark in class | 25% |
| 3. Reading and presentation of an Austrian novel in class | 25% |
| 4. End-of-term test (December 05) | 25% |

Note that all four components must be completed to receive a passing grade. Due dates for the assignments number 2 and 3 will vary depending on the actual content of the chosen novel and landmark. Topics and dates for these two assignments will be determined during the first weeks of class.

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Presentation of a cultural Austrian landmark in class

Your task will be to choose one significant Austrian cultural landmark (e.g. Danube or Vienna's Opera etc.), to conduct a research on its geographical and cultural position, to write a two-page summary and to present your results in class (approx. 15 minutes). You can find the suggested landmarks under the section "place" in the course schedule (on eClass).

Reading and presentation of an Austrian novel in class

Your task will be to choose **one** of the following texts, to read it (in English translation or in German), to do a two-page summary of the novel / play write and present the text and its author in class (approx. 15 minutes). Note that the due date for this assignment varies according to the specific text you choose. Based on your German language competency you may decide to read the text and write your summary either in English or in German.

Arthur Schnitzler, *Reigen, Professor Bernhardi, Leutnant Gustl*

Robert Musil, *The Confusions of Young Torless*

Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis, The Trial*

Josef Roth, *Radetzky March, The Emperor's Tomb*

Ödon v Horvath, *Italian Night, Youth Without God, Tales from the Vienna Wood*

Thomas Bernhard, *Heldenplatz, Wittgenstein's Nephew*

Elfriede Jelinek, *The Piano Teacher, Rechnitz*

Peter Handke, *Offending the Audience, Kaspar, A Sorrow Beyond Dreams*

Ingeborg Bachmann, *Malina*

Christoph Ransmayr, *The Dog King*

Anna Mitgutsch, *House of Childhood.*

End-of-term Test

This test will be a paper and pencil test in class, which focuses on the basics of Austrian history and culture. You will have to respond in your own words to 10 questions which will cover the main course subjects. Date: **December 05, 2019.**

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding

academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Language courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations,

Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (from the beginning of the Calendar).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
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<p>Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.</p>	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
<p>Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.</p>	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
<p>Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59

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