

Interdisciplinary Creative Writing in Vienna, Summer 2020

Instructor: Mark Allen Cunningham

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**I'm not yet sure about a course designation. This could be WR212 (Intro Fiction); WR312 (Intermediate Fiction); WR407 or WR412 (Advanced Fiction). ???*

I'm also very open to the course being less genre-specific (Fiction/Nonfiction/Poetry) and/or cross-listed with other disciplines (?).

Course Description

“There is hardly a city in Europe where the drive towards cultural ideals was as passionate as it was in Vienna. ... Here all the streams of Europe converged ... and subconsciously every citizen became supernational, cosmopolitan, a citizen of the world.” —Stefan Zweig

Vienna is one of Europe’s most historically vibrant, artistic, and fascinating cities. Crown of a vast bygone empire whose eccentric emperors and multicultural citizens left their stamp in its art, architecture, and customs, Vienna offers visitors layers upon layers of history and culture, and for creative writers that means inspiration at every turn. City of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Strauss, and Mahler, Vienna’s musical legacy continues to astonish listeners everywhere, and the city is alive with music year round. City of Freud, this is the birthplace of psychoanalysis, a seismic force that forever changed the course of literature and art. City of baroque splendor, art nouveau, and modernist experimentation, here the painters Klimt and Schiele scandalized the art world, and Vienna’s museums today boast some of the finest and most famous artworks anywhere. City of Rainer Maria Rilke, Stefan Zweig, Joseph Roth, Arthur Schnitzler, and Nobel Prize winner Elfriede Jelinek, Vienna is also the site of indisputable literary genius. From its flourishing days of polyglot empire and artistic ferment, through the dark chapter of World War II, to the tumultuous populism of today’s Austrian government and Vienna’s role as a geographical juncture for refugees, this city has always had a major cultural significance in Europe.

Join author, publisher, and PSU English Instructor Mark Allen Cunningham for a richly interdisciplinary course exploring creative writing amid the art and history of this beautiful and sometimes overlooked capital on the Danube. What might we borrow, as writers, from the disciplines of music and visual art? In Vienna we will hone our powers of expression through imaginative written experiments as we search for vital relationships between creative writing and other art forms. How does research inform imagination? We will study the role of history, biography, and psychology in the construction of complex fictional characters and engaging plotlines. How does locale influence and inflect our work? We will study the nature and legacy of the Habsburg Empire as a cultural force and experience the continuing literary tradition of the Viennese coffeehouse while we explore the function and potentialities of place in imaginative writing.

To study creative writing is to study the world. Through extensive city tours and excursions, cultural site visits, and inspiring seminars, workshops, and guest lectures, we will draw on the artful energy, inspirations, and complexities of Vienna in order broaden the horizons of our writing practice and breathe new life into every line.

Required Texts:

A Nervous Splendor by Frederic Morton

The World of Yesterday by Stefan Zweig

Recommended Texts

1913 by Florian Illies

Recommended Films

The Third Man, directed by Carol Reed (1949)

Amadeus, directed by Milos Forman (1984)

Immortal Beloved, directed by Bernard Rose (1994)

Museum Hours, directed by Jem Cohen (2012)

Bride of the Wind, directed by Bruce Beresford (2001)

Woman in Gold, directed by Simon Curtis (2013)

Writers / Texts we may study

Thomas Bernhard

Paul Celan

Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl

The Interpretation of Dreams by Sigmund Freud

The Wall by Marlen Haushofer

Elfriede Jelinek

Franz Kafka

Friederike Mayröcker

Robert Musil

New Poems by Rainer Maria Rilke

The Radetsky March by Joseph Roth

Arthur Schnitzler

Excerpts from *Tractatus* by Ludwig Wittgenstein

Artists we may study

Gustav Klimt

Egon Schiele

Elena Luksch-Makowsky

Adolf Loos

Otto Wagner

Friedensreich Hundertwasser

Helene Funke

Erika Giovanna Klein

Oskar Kokoschka

Ludwig van Beethoven

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Franz Schubert

Gustav Mahler

Intercultural Interaction

- Tours & Guided Visits: Kunsthistorisches Museum; House of Music Museum; Literature Museum; Belvedere Museum; Schonbrunn Palace; Vienna Opera

- Guest Lectures: Hapsburg Empire; Viennese Music History; History of Psychoanalysis
- Walking tour of Central Vienna
- Excursion to the Wienerwald, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve on the edge of the city
- Group visits to Vienna's Summer Music Festival, a nightly event at Vienna City Hall
- Group attendance at a live classical music concert
- 2 Group Dinners at Viennese restaurants
- Numerous interactions with local business owners, food vendors, restaurant proprietors, museum staff, guest speakers
- Required independent visits: Viennese Coffeehouse; Sigmund Freud Museum; composer's residence (Beethoven, Mozart, or Schubert); Stephansdom or the Karlskirche; Holocaust Memorial

DRAFT



Creative Writing

Portland State University

IES Abroad Vienna | June 22, 2020 – July 06, 2020

Portland State University Faculty: Mark Allen Cunningham

Portland State University Contact: Hannah Fischer

IES Abroad Contact: Maureen Brady Coyle

Addendum Date: July 23, 2019

Revised Addendum Date: September 3, 2019

Revised Addendum Date: September 16, 2019



IES Abroad Student Handbook. IES Abroad will also provide the School with the *IES Abroad Student Handbook* to distribute to students. An electronic PDF of the *Student Handbook* will be sent to the School to use in pre-departure meetings with students. The *IES Abroad Student Handbook* focuses on policies and includes complete details on IES Abroad's:

- *Code of Student Responsibility*
- *Code of Student Conduct*
- *Alcohol and Other Drug Policy*
- *Information Technology Policy*
- *Sexual Harassment Policy*
- *Crisis Management Plan* and other safety information
- Cell phone requirement
- Health and insurance information

IES Abroad serves as the final authority on any student health, well-being or conduct matters for customized programs. The accompanying faculty member must notify IES Abroad Center staff of any student health, well-being or conduct related matters that come to the faculty member's attention so that IES Abroad can respond according to IES Abroad policies. IES Abroad will follow up communication to the accompanying faculty member and SCHOOL as appropriate.

Online Submissions & Support. IES Abroad requires the submission of a few forms by students for participation in the program. Form content includes the collection of information such as arrival details, emergency contact details, a housing placement questionnaire, etc. IES Abroad will track all IES Abroad online form submissions from students and inform the School of missing items in order for the School to follow up directly with students.

Medical Forms Support. For programs longer than 30 days, each student is required to have a physical exam to participate in the program and must complete an IES Abroad Medical form requiring the signature of an examining physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. The IES Abroad Dean of Students Office reviews all IES Abroad Medical forms prior to departure and may contact students to offer assistance with making overseas medical arrangements, if needed, or to discuss any medications the student may be taking and their legality and/or availability overseas.

Department of State Registration. IES Abroad will register all the School's students and accompanying faculty with the U.S. Department of State prior to departure.

Visa Process Support. For programs in countries with a visa requirement, it is the School's responsibility to ensure its students have legally-required visas. If a visa is needed, IES Abroad will provide School's students that are U.S. citizens with supporting documentation to assist with the visa process. IES Abroad reserves the right not to allow students to participate in the program if they arrive on site without a visa.

PROGRAM START AND END DATES

Please note that the School's program beginning at **IES Abroad Vienna** will begin **in country** with the arrival of students on **June 22, 2020**. This **is not** the date that students need to leave the US. It is the School's responsibility to advise its students of the appropriate departure date for leaving the US in order to arrive on June 22, 2020. The end date for this program is scheduled as **July 06, 2020**. This is the date on which the School's students, faculty and staff will be required to vacate their IES Abroad-arranged housing and depart.

VIENNA PROGRAM COMPONENTS

AIRPORT TRANSFER

IES Abroad will provide detailed information regarding transportation from the Vienna airport to the local IES Abroad Center for students and faculty arriving **no later than 11 AM** local time on the arrival date. IES Abroad will also provide detailed information regarding transportation to the local IES Abroad Center for students who must arrive independently due to travel delays.



ON-SITE ORIENTATION

Orientation Details. IES Abroad will provide an orientation for the School's students and accompanying faculty member promptly upon their scheduled arrival in Vienna. The orientation shall include:

- Comprehensive information on health and safety, culture, and living in Vienna. Students will be provided with an information packet during orientation which includes a detailed student handbook, local area information, and a program schedule.
- **Practical Walking Tour**
- **Welcome Dinner**

Faculty & Staff Meeting. Upon arrival at the IES Abroad Center, the accompanying faculty will meet with IES Abroad staff to discuss the details of the program and responsibilities of each party.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Courses. The School's faculty will teach the following courses for the School's students.

- *Creative Writing*

Guest Lectures. IES Abroad will provide **three (3) guest lectures** related to the content of the program. Topics could include Hapsburg Empire, Viennese Music History, and History of Psychoanalysis.

IES ABROAD CENTER

Also known as the Palais Corbelli, the IES Abroad Vienna Center is an elegant 17th century architectural landmark in the heart of Vienna, just minutes from many of the museums, theaters, and other major cultural attractions that have bestowed international fame on the city.

Library & Computer Lab. The school's students and faculty members will have access to the library and computer lab at the IES Abroad Vienna Center on a shared basis with other students at the Center. Wireless Internet is available for students and faculty who bring their own laptop computer. Center hours are from 8AM to 8PM, Monday through Friday.

Classroom Space. IES Abroad will provide **ten (10)** hours of classroom space.

FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

Local Excursions. IES Abroad will provide the following for the School's students and accompanying faculty member.

Site Visits.

- Belvedere Palace. Includes audio tour.
- Haus der Musik. Includes guided tour.
- Kunsthistorisches Museum. Includes guided tour.
- Schonbrunn Palace. Includes audio tour.
- Wienerwalk, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Includes a hike.
- Austrian National Library Literature Museum. Includes guided tour.

Day Trips.

- **Melk.** This day trip includes roundtrip bus transportation, tour of Melk Abbey, a stop in Dürnstein with a picnic lunch on top of castle ruins, a wine tasting at a vineyard, and a short cruise. An IES Abroad staff member will accompany the group.



- **Bratislava, Slovakia.** Day trip includes round trip bus transportation, a city walking tour, entrance to the Hummel Museum, and a group meal.
An IES Abroad representative will accompany the group.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Student Housing. IES Abroad will arrange housing for the School's students in shared apartments of three to six students. Students will share a bedroom with one other student. No meals are included in this housing, but kitchen facilities are available. Internet access is available if available.

Faculty Housing. IES Abroad will arrange housing for the School's faculty member in a studio apartment. No meals are included, but kitchen facilities are available. Faculty housing will be available from June 21, 2020 through July 06, 2020.

Faculty will be asked to present 50 Euro for a key deposit to their Viennese landlords upon move-in. It will be returned in full at the end of the program if no keys are lost. It is the school's responsibility to inform faculty that there will be a 50 Euro key deposit due upon arrival. The School shall be responsible for any fees related to the loss of apartment keys by individual program participants, faculty or assistants, if applicable.

MISCELLANEOUS

Transportation Passes. IES Abroad will provide transportation passes for the School's students and faculty member for the period of the program.

Cultural Events. IES Abroad will arrange **two (2)** cultural events for the School's students and faculty member during the program. IES Abroad will make reasonable efforts to secure tickets to Vienna Summer Film Festival for one of the cultural events and tickets to a classical music concert for the second cultural event.

Farewell Dinner. IES Abroad will arrange a farewell dinner for the School's students and faculty member at the end of the program.

STUDENT SERVICES SUPPORT

Fully-Trained Local Staff. The IES Abroad Center is a fully-staffed local office ready to respond quickly and professionally to student and faculty needs. An on-site Customized Programs coordinator will be designated specifically as the point of contact for students and faculty on the program. This on-site coordinator, in partnership with other IES Abroad Center staff, helps to oversee the academic quality for IES Abroad taught courses and to manage logistics including accommodations, field trips, cultural activities, and day-to-day administration. This coordinator will also handle on-site emergencies and manage student academic, health, and discipline issues in conjunction with the IES Abroad Dean of Students Office in Chicago. IES Abroad will provide information to the School's students concerning cultural activities and available local resources, such as libraries and athletic centers, in the program location.

24/7 Emergency Support. IES Abroad will provide 24/7 emergency support, including emergency protocols & evacuation plans, for students and accompanying faculty member pursuant to its customary policies and procedures.

Crisis Management Preparedness. IES Abroad has a Crisis Management Team (CMT). In the event of a crisis that may affect the health and safety of many, or even all, students in a specific location, the IES CMT is convened to assess and respond to the situation at hand. The CMT will respond in accordance with established IES Abroad practices and protocols and also may seek the guidance as needed of appropriate experts, including, as examples, U.S. consular officials, local law enforcement representatives, and local



health care providers.

Health Insurance. IES Abroad offers a carefully considered plan for international student insurance, to be provided for the School's students participating in the Program, as well as the official faculty member designated to operate the Program by the School. The plan is comprised of three parts:

- A) 24-hour Medical/Travel/Technical Assistance, Emergency Medical Evacuation and Repatriation coverage provided by Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) in conjunction with AXA;
- B) Accident and Sickness Insurance provided by CISI; and
- C) Security and Political Evacuation Services provided by CISI in conjunction with AXA and iJET Intelligent Risk Systems (iJET).

Trip Tracker. IES Abroad will monitor student whereabouts using *Trip Tracker*, a system that keeps track of students' locations when they are travelling independently.

SERVICES BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS ADDENDUM

IES Abroad reserves the right to accept or decline any requests by School, School's faculty, staff, agents, students, or IES Abroad-approved guests for services beyond the scope of the Program Components or Pre-departure Support described in this Addendum. The parties hereby agree any services provided by IES Abroad employees, contractors, or agents that are beyond the scope of this Addendum shall be billed at the rate of \$100 per hour, plus any expenses incurred by IES Abroad in connection with the provision of such additional services. Accrued fees and expenses shall be due and payable by School to IES Abroad upon receipt of an invoice therefore.