

Linfield College in Vienna, Austria
MLGR 365: AUSTRIAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN A EUROPEAN CONTEXT
(3 credits, IS and GP)
Instructor: Prof. Kurt Pokorny

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to give the student a thorough insight into and understanding of the political and social development of the Republic of Austria in the twentieth century and its present role and position in Europe at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

It deals with:

- a) the First Republic: Austria ¹⁹¹⁸~~1918~~-1938
- b) the "Anschluss" in 1938; Austria in the "Third Reich"-the war years
- c) the struggles of the Austrians in search of their identity after the war
- d) the political system in Austria
- e) the political development after WWII and Austrian foreign policy in a European context
- f) the social development and changes since WWII
- g) the Austrian educational system
- h) the role of the United States in European affairs particularly concerning Austria
- i) the struggles of the Austrians in search of their identity in a new Europe
- j) the step-by-step integration of Austria in the European Communities

In addition to the lectures there will be field trips to museums and exhibitions. Students are expected to actively participate in class and are required to prepare reading homework as well as write and present a paper.

Midterm:	30%
Paper + presentation:	20%
Class participation, hw:	20%
Final:	30%

Individuals, Systems, and Societies (IS) Designation

Courses in this mode examine how members of societies organize themselves to satisfy individual and collective goals. They foster an understanding of the complexity and interconnectedness of individuals, systems, and societies across local, national, and/or global contexts. They also encourage students to think critically about themselves and their relationships to other individuals, institutions, and/or social systems.

Global Pluralisms (GP) Designation

This course clearly focuses students' attention beyond their own national boundaries. The use of analytical frameworks challenges students to address and understand the social, political, ethical, cultural, religious, and/or policy discourses of the German-speaking countries, in this case Austria, from a global perspective. In addition, MLGR 365 considers a variety of multicultural perspectives within those countries and compares those perspectives with aspects of US culture. In this way students prepare for their participation and citizenship in an increasingly diverse world.

Learning Objectives

Students taking courses with the Global Pluralism (GP) designation will have opportunities to:

- Develop a better understanding of the issues of identity, politics, culture, history, religion, health care, and/or economics in a context of a culture other than that of the United States.
- Reflect upon the relationship that two or more countries share with each other through a comparative analysis of literature, the arts, politics, and/or social movements.

READING LIST

- books from library*
- JELAVICH, Barbara: Modern Austria. Empire and Republic 1815-1986, part II.
LICHTENBERGER, Elisabeth: Austria. Society and Regions (selected chapters).
- articles - will get so handwritten*
- ZAHN, Gordon C.: Conscience and Obedience. (art.)
PELINKA, Anton: The Perception of the Anschluss after 1945. (art.)
SULLY, Melanie A.: The Political effects of the Anschluss on the Austrian Second Republic. (art.)
GARSHA, Winfried and KURETSIDIS-HAIDER, Claudia: Justice and Nazi-crimes in Austria 1945-1955 between self-purge and Allied control.
In: 1945: Consequences and Sequels of the Second World War.
Bulletin of the International Committee for the History of the Second World War.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

- Austria today: The political system – the constitution.
- The political parties in Austria: their history, their traditions and their platforms.
- The First Republic: From its foundation in 1918 till the Thirties – “The state nobody wanted”.
- The rise of fascism in Europe (in particularly in Italy, Germany and Austria).
- Austria in the Thirties – the end of parliament democracy, Civil War, the period of “Austro-fascism”.
- The “Anschluss” in 1938
- Austria in the “Third Reich” – the war years.
- Refounding Austria in 1945: in search of a new Austrian self-understanding.
- Liberation versus foreign occupation: the long way to independence.
- Aftermath of the NS – period: denazification.
- The “Long Fifties”: conservatism versus Americanisation
- Proportional democracy – the years of the “grand coalition”, “consociationalism”.
- The late Sixties and the politicalisation of the young generation.
- The Seventies: Socialist Austria.
- Social issues in the late Sixties and Seventies: anti-authoritarianism; emancipation of women; the decline of Catholicism.
- Political changes in the Eighties.
- The Eighties: Consumerism; youth culture; the “end” of the traditional family?
- The development of an environmental awareness.
- The Austrian educational system.
- The Nineties – the way into a new Europe.
- Austria’s position in present-day Europe.