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Poster Presentation

1900--WIEN--2000, a Senior Year Experience with Study Abroad Component

Outline of the presentation:

1. Explanation of the Senior Year Experience at Otterbein College
2. Aims and concept of the course
3. The course content
4. Logistics, on-campus / off-campus components
5. The results of the course: faculty perspective / student perspective
6. Request for comments and constructive criticism

1900--WIEN--2000

"Culture and Conflict in Vienna at the Turn of Two Centuries,"
Senior Year Experience with Study-Abroad Component

Otterbein College students must complete a Senior Year Experience (SYE), the goal of which is to merge the broad liberal learning of our core curriculum, *Integrative Studies*, with the depth of knowledge acquired in the major field of study into a synthesis that addresses contemporary problems, reflects on the liberal arts experience, and builds concepts of responsible citizenship. Drawing on my experience in the 2001 NEH Institute in Vienna, "The People of Vienna in a Century of Turmoil, 1845-1955," colleagues and I created an SYE that will meet fall quarter on campus (5 quarter hours/3 semester hours) and subsequently study for two weeks in Vienna.

SYE Courses are designed to:

- Expose students to significant contemporary issues
- Give students tools for understanding and making ethical choices when faced with these issues
- Teach students the skills of synthesis and integration of materials across disciplinary boundaries
- Allow students to bring together the learning they have done in their majors and in their Integrative Studies courses
- Provide a bridge between academic learning and responsible citizenship

The Aims of the Course

In the context of the SYE program objectives, our course is a comparison and contrast of Vienna at the turn of the 20th century and Vienna at the turn of the 21st century: 1900-Wien-2000.

1900. After establishing a historical and cultural framework, the course will first take a look at the contexts and consequences of the incredible cultural explosion of Vienna around 1900, a kind of "fireworks grand finale" before the darkness of civil war and fascism to come.

2000. Turning the focus to the next century, our own 21st century, we will look at achievements of today's Vienna, its challenges and opportunities as "bridge between East and West." We will see the city as potential economic and cultural magnet for the states about to become new members of the European Union. Ironically, these states encompass much of the area of the Hapsburg Empire as it existed in 1900.

Sample Course Content

Readings:

Round Dance / Hands Around (Reigen) Arthur Schnitzler

February Shadows, Elizabeth Reichart

Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud

Excerpts from:

A Nervous Splendor, Frederic Morton

The Viennese, Paul Hofmann

Wittgenstein's Poker, Edmonds and Eidinow

Wittgenstein's Vienna, Janik and Toulmin

Films

La Ronde, Max Ophuls

Sunshine, Istvan Szabo

The Quality of Mercy, Andreas Gruber

Documentary: *Schoenberg and Wittgenstein*, Michael and Christopher Nupen

CD Listening Assignments

Symphony No. 1 ("Titan") by Gustav Mahler

Schrammelmusik, selections

Geschichte aus dem Wienerwald, Johann Strauss, Jr.

Radetzky March, Johann Strauss, Sr.

Pierrot Lunaire, Schoenberg

Selections by Falco and other popular culture artists

Logistics:

The course consists of ten weeks on campus, then two weeks in Vienna, followed by one meeting for "debriefing" on campus. In Vienna the class will meet mornings in the Seminar Room of the Benediktushaus, Schottenstift. Lodging will be in the Benediktushaus and the Pension City. Otterbein faculty will be assisted by Viennese scholars.

Results of the Course

Student course evaluations and faculty evaluations and critical analysis of what went well and what did not go well are the content of this section.

Conclusion and Request for Feedback

Suggestions and comments will be requested from the conference attendees.