Poster Presentation

TRAINING GRADUATE STUDENTS IN AUSTRIAN LITERATURE AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

This poster will offer as models two graduate courses: GER 392: Gibt es eine österreichische Literatur? / Is There Austrian Literature?

This course will use the question: "Is there Austrian Literature?" as a guidepost for explorations about national literary canons, their formation, and their politics, within the framework of the nature and constitution of today's literary studies. "Austrian literature" is largely a post-1945 concept, created to no small degree by Germanists of Austro-Hungarian origin in US exile. Within Austria today, the latest history of "Austrian Literature" is called Geschichte der Literatur in Österreich.

By taking on central strategies for thinking about literary history and testing what might be called "Austrian literature" against their assumptions, we will not only introduce canonical germanophone Austrian authors, but also take on methodological questions about literary studies and about the politics of Germanistik, especially as strained across common national, ethnic, and religious lines.

GER 382N (34435) = REE 385 (42495): Intellectual History: Made in Austria

This course has a twofold aim: first, to introduce the unique intellectual climate that made Austrian thought key in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, even as its nation-state went into decline; and second, to focus on what constitutes "intellectual history" in a scholarly climate which prefers cultural history (ours). The case studies are drawn from the "royal road" of Austrian thought; case studies are selected to challenge boundaries between high and popular culture, nation-states, and disciplines.

This course should be useful to those interested in Germany and in the rest of Austro-Hungary and Central Europe (including Italy, especially in the case of the theater), and students will be encouraged to follow their interests out from the examples used in the class into other parallel projects -- to open out intellectual projects "made in Vienna" to other places where they took root (which could include Hollywood, as well).