

Bates Semester in Vienna, Austria

Fall 2010



The Program



The Museum of Art History, Vienna

Located in the heart of Europe, Vienna combines the stately elegance of an old imperial capital with the vibrancy of a modern metropolis. The former seat of the Habsburg Empire, Vienna is renowned for its beautiful palaces, monuments, and museums, as well as its cozy cafes. The city of Mozart, Schubert, Mahler, Freud, and Klimt, Vienna has a rich intellectual heritage and remains one of the key centers for the performing arts in Europe. Though no longer the capital of a great power, Vienna plays an important part in contemporary international politics as the “third capital” of the United Nations and the site of important international conferences. Vienna’s close proximity and long-standing ties to such cities as Budapest, Prague, and Sarajevo have given it a unique role in the creation of a new Europe since the end of the Cold War.

The Fall Semester in Vienna program offers entering and continuing students the opportunity for extended linguistic and cultural immersion in a modern metropolis enriched by diverse traditions. The program is open to all Bates students, including entering students and sophomores. No prior study or knowledge of German is necessary for participation.

The Courses

The program starts in late August and concludes in mid-December. The program begins with a four-week intensive German course at Cultura Wien, a German language institute located in the center of the city. The institute offers a range of German courses taught by native German speakers. Students will be placed according to their abilities, from beginner to advanced. After this intensive course, participants continue their study of German and also take two courses with Bates faculty. These courses serve as co-requisites for each other.

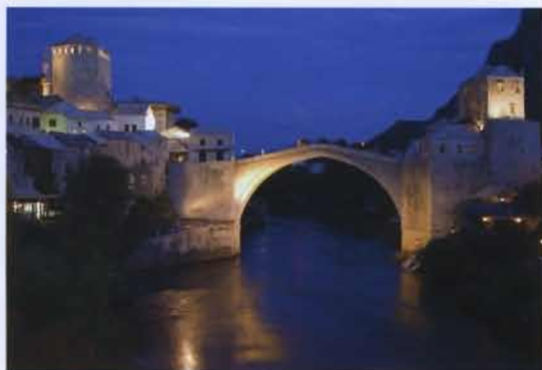
*From Habsburg to Haider:
Austria in the Twentieth Century*
Professor Craig Decker

This course explores major political and cultural developments in Austria from the end of the nineteenth century to the beginning of the twenty-first, devoting particular attention to the changing role Vienna has played in those developments. We examine the decline of the multi-ethnic Habsburg Empire and the outbreak of World War I; the ill-fated First Austrian Republic (“the state that no one wanted”) that emerged from the Great War; Austrian fascism and the National Socialist *Anschluss*; and the establishment of a stable and affluent democracy after World War II. Particular attention is devoted to the birth of modernism in turn-of-the-century Vienna, post-World War II attempts to come to terms with Austria’s fascist past, and evolving concepts of Austrian national identity. Visits to sites in and around Vienna complement classroom instruction.

Balkan Bridges

Professor Dennis Browne

The town of Višegrad in eastern Bosnia is known for its sixteenth-century Ottoman bridge, celebrated in the historical novel *Bridge on the Drina* by Nobel laureate Ivo Andrić. The bridge, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, still bears the scars of two world wars and numerous executions from Ottoman times to the civil wars of the 1990s. In many ways, the history of the bridge is the story of the Balkans. From Novi Sad to Kosovska Mitrovica, from Višegrad to Mostar, bridges have stood as symbols of community or have fallen as targets of disunity. In this course we examine the cultural politics of great nineteenth-century empires — Habsburg, Ottoman, and Russian — and twentieth-



Old Bridge, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

century superpowers: the USSR, Nazi Germany, and NATO; and analyze their efforts to reshape the political and cultural landscape of the Balkans.

Bates Faculty

Dennis Browne, Associate Professor of Russian, teaches courses in Russian language and culture and on the history and politics of the Balkans. He directed Fall Semester Abroad programs to Russia in 2003 and 2005, and to Croatia in 1999. In 1996, he led one of the first groups of U.S. and international students to enter Serbia after the Dayton Peace Accords were signed.



Graben, downtown Vienna

Craig Decker, Professor of German, specializes in modern Austrian literature and culture. On several occasions he has conducted Short Term units with Bates students in Austria. He directed the Bates Fall Semester Abroad Program in Vienna in 2001 and 2006, and in Berlin, Germany, in 1992.

Travel

Extensive travel within and outside Austria is an integral part of the program. Course-related excursions in and around Vienna are planned throughout the semester, as well as a one-week trip through Austria in September and travel to the Balkans in October. On weekends and during other free time, students will have time to enjoy other sites in Austria and Europe.

Housing

During their stay in Vienna, students will live in single rooms in student dormitories and then in private residences.



Fees and Credits

This program is part of the Bates curriculum. Completion of the fall semester in Vienna provides students with four Bates credits. The four courses also count as a General Education Concentration. Students must take all four courses as they are considered co-requisites of one another. All expenses, including travel to and from Vienna and program-related field trips, are covered by the regular Bates comprehensive fee. Students need to bring funds only for personal entertainment, gifts, and independent travel.

Applications are available from Georgette Dumais, 200 Hathorn Hall, or the Off-Campus Study Office in Lane Hall. Early applications from enrolled students may be submitted to the Off-Campus Study Office by December 18, 2009, for notification in mid-January. Regular applications are due by February 5, 2010. Students in the class of 2014 should contact one of the organizers as early as possible and submit a completed application by May 12, 2010.



For More Information and Applications

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Information on safety, security, and crime in Austria is available on the travel Web site of the U.S. Department of State, www.travel.state.gov. Information on health issues and recommended immunizations is available on the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov/travel. Students and families are urged to review the information on both sites.

Bates values the diversity of persons, perspectives, and convictions. Critical thinking, rigorous analysis, and open discussion of a full range of ideas lie at the heart of the College's mission as an institution of higher learning. The College seeks to encourage inquiry and reasoned dialogue in a climate of mutual respect. Bates does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, marital or parental status, age, or disability, in the recruitment and admission of its students, in the administration of its educational policies and programs, or in the recruitment and employment of its faculty and staff.

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