

German 265: Investigating German Pasts and Presents
Block 4

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Investigating German Pasts and Presents

Required Texts and Materials

- German-English Dictionary (recommended)

Course Description

This block abroad, led by Prof. Dr. Tyler Carrington, is your passport to the pasts and presents of three dynamic cities in the German-speaking world. Starting in Vienna, Austria, moving through the Alps and north to Munich, Germany, and ending in the cosmopolitan German capital of Berlin, this course will explore the cultural, linguistic, social, political, and environmental foundations of Germany and Austria. In each city, we will focus on a particularly fascinating historical context and also measure its significance and relevance in the present. Students will engage hands-on with cities, buildings, artifacts, and archival materials, and they will dive headlong into the visual, culinary, and sensory treats of these magnificent cities. This course will become the touchstone of a life-long fascination with German-speaking Europe and equip them with a wealth of perspectives and experiences that will open up untold doors for their lives and careers.

The course will begin in Vienna, Austria, a city that represents Europe's oft-eulogized (and usually gold-tinged) nineteenth-century past. We will begin along Vienna's famous Ringstraße boulevard, which, in the 1850s, replaced the old medieval city walls and epitomizes the birth and modernization of the modern European city. Along the Ringstraße sit countless examples of the nineteenth century's cultural peaks (e.g. the opera, symphony, and people's theater), not to mention the grand bourgeois residences and retail emporia that buttressed some of the most prevailing beliefs of nineteenth-century Europeans: progress, consumerism, and contentedness. As much as Vienna was rooted in the (Holy Roman) past, however, there was also a great deal about it that challenged that comfortable past and looked fearlessly--and dangerously--toward the future: Vienna was the incubator of cultural modernism (and associated movements like Successionism, Expressionism, etc.) and home to avant garde musicians, artists, and writers like Mahler, Klimt, and Rilke), and it was where Adolf Hitler began formulating his hateful anti-Semitic ideologies. For that matter, Vienna was long the uneasy capital of a volatile multi-ethnic empire, and its central position in the events of WWI, WWII, and the Cold War/Iron Curtain (to say nothing of the twenty-first-century refugee crisis) imbue this city with an incredible significance in the present. We will explore all of this and more.

Our second stop will be Munich, Germany's eclectic Bavarian hot-spot located at the foot of the Alps and situated amongst beautiful lakes and forests. Munich may be best known for Oktoberfest, Lederhosen, and BMWs, but it is an absolutely fascinating example of a city perched on the edge of the past and the present. Like Vienna, Munich has a great many nineteenth-century (and earlier) roots, but our interest here will be the turn of the twentieth century and beyond. Munich's access to the Alps will allow us to experience (even in winter) what all the buzz was about with the wildly popular hiking and skiing clubs and outdoor culture that exploded in the 1880s and represented fascinating paths to modernity (cf. my friend Andrew Denning's book, *Skiing into Modernity*). Munich was yet another incubator of Hitler's violent

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ideologies and the location of the 1923 Nazi “Putsch” attempt, and this came on the heels of Munich’s brief flirtation with Soviet-style revolution (and a “Red Republic”) in 1919. But 1920s Munich was also where modernist artists/writers like Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky, and Thomas Mann produced their best works, and this imbued the city with a celebrated off-beatness that it maintains today. In the post-war world, Munich was the home of the American liberation/occupation, de-nazification, and the Nuremberg trials (in surrounding Bavaria), and Munich eventually served in 1972 as the unfortunate home to the Olympics and the “Black September” terrorist attacks. These days, Munich is Bavaria’s crown jewel and represents a prosperous and hip new engineering and tech-oriented German south that is speeding away from a struggling and more heavy-industrial north (a new north/south divide to replace east/west, as per a recent Economist article). We will seek out the twentieth-century roots of innovation in this beautiful city.

Our final stop will be Berlin, the capital city where over 200 languages are spoken and people from all over the world come to live, work, and play. Berlin is a multicultural, multi-ethnic, endlessly modern metropolis that is so deeply steeped in historical significance that merely walking the city is like spending days upon days at the most immersive museum. There are many Berlins to investigate but only so much time, so we will focus our energies on the Berlin of the Third Reich, the Cold War, and of the cosmopolitan twenty-first century. 1930s Berlin is still very much visible and discoverable today, and we will examine the rise of the Nazis and their consolidation of power, which was on full display for the world in the 1936 Olympics, held in Berlin. After Berlin’s (and Germany’s) “zero hour” in 1945, the city was split into two, the eastern part eventually walled off from the west by the Berlin Wall, the west an island of western capitalism in the middle of the Communist East German republic (the GDR). Each part of the city developed in fascinating ways, and we will explore not just the wall itself (which still stands in parts) but the two worlds it divided: the west, with its Marshall Plan-fueled “economic miracle” recovery and full embrace of capitalism, consumerism, and western culture; and the east, where the positive parts of Communistic Socialism blended uneasily with the threat of supervision, detainment, and erasure by the infamous Stasi secret police. Now that the wall has been torn down, the city is once again whole, and Berliners move between east and west with ease. But the long division of the city still shows in the architectural differences, opinions of longtime residents, and overall flavors of the various neighborhoods. Moreover, Berlin was long a refuge to those fleeing persecution, and the city has, since the 1960s, been home to incredible ethnic diversity that manifests itself in more than just delicious ethnic food (of which there is a lot). Berlin, too, is a hub of European politics, alternative and subversive culture, and fascinating start-ups and co-ops. We will take it all in during our time here.

This course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with emphases on inquiry, knowledge, communication, citizenship, and intercultural literacy.

Course Requirements

During the brief, 2-day “on campus” portion of the class, we will meet as a normal class and have a few short assignments (wherein you will articulate what you know, what you hope to learn, and what you anticipate) and discussions in which your participation is expected. On-site in Austria and Germany, attendance and participation will be graded as normal (missing a planned outing is like missing a class). Note that punctuality is absolutely critical, particularly on dates when we have timed tickets and especially travel itineraries (read: bus tickets). It goes without saying that you must arrive on time. If you are late and make the group wait, your grade will be docked. If you cause us to miss something like a bus to another city, you will lose several letter grades for the class. We simply cannot miss these connections!

In terms of coursework, you will be required to reflect on at least one experience per day in your travel diary. You will share with me your work on this travel diary at the end of each city stay (end of Vienna;

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end of Munich; end of Berlin) in the form of a WordPress website/blog, complete with photos and descriptions. Due dates for these are as follows:

- Vienna portion: December 3 at 11:59 pm
- Munich portion: December 9 at 11:59 pm
- Berlin portion: December 18 at 11:59 pm (USA-central time)

You will also complete a 3-episode Podcast series (one episode for each city) that examines one topic from a variety of angles. We will brainstorm topics during the on-campus portion of the class. In general, you will combine the sights, sounds, and information you glean from our group outings (to exhibits, sites, museums, etc.) with individual/group investigation during the non-scripted parts of our days to provide an interesting, 5-8 minute “feel” for and story about your chosen topic. You might, for example, choose to investigate urban transit in Vienna. You would want to gather some sounds of riding the different forms of public transit (and walking); use information and details from our guided tour of the Transit Museum; strike up a conversation with someone riding public transit (and/or a conductor); chat with a ticket salesperson about costs (and the economics of public transit); etc. etc. Then you would want to figure out what your “take” on (your story about) public transit past and present will be. What, in other words, is the main thing you want your listeners to take away from this brief exposure to public transit in Vienna? This is your story. Then storyboard your podcast, record it, make cuts and additions, and publish it (and share with me). You’re done with episode 1.

A few further details on the podcasts:

- You must work in a group of 2-4 people.
- Each student should have some clear role (and should speak on the podcast).
- Podcasts must be shared with me digitally (via email) by the following dates:
 - Episode 1 (Vienna): December 4th at 11:59 pm
 - Episode 2 (Munich): December 10 at 11:59 pm
 - Episode 3 (Berlin): December 19 at noon (USA-central time)

Grading

Attendance and Participation	20%
Travel Diary 1 (Vienna)	15%
Travel Diary 2 (Munich)	17%
Travel Diary 3 (Berlin)	18%
Podcasts (3 x 10% each)	30%

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College’s requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading “Academic Honesty.”

Simply put, the work you submit for this course must be your own. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden and will be punished with a failing grade for the course (in addition to discipline by the college). Plagiarism is representing the words or ideas of another as your own. Submitting papers you did not write is the most well-known type of plagiarism but hardly the only one. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to: copying another student's work in exams, papers, or other exercises; verbatim copying, close paraphrasing, pasting in, or recombining published materials, including materials from the Internet, without appropriate citation. If you have questions about whether you need to attribute something or not, please ask me and I will be more than happy to advise you. Plagiarism is remarkably easy to see, and I have caught students plagiarizing on more than one occasion. I will follow the college's disciplinary procedure on academic honesty (<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/registrar/pdf/Academic%20Honesty.pdf>) in the unfortunate event that you cheat or plagiarize.

Late Assignments

Because this class is travel-based and some work will happen during times of transit between cities, we will set due dates for the travel diaries based on our arrival times and daily itineraries. Generally speaking, the work for a particular city (e.g. Vienna) will be due shortly after arrival in the following city. But because international travel can be more taxing on some than others, these deadlines will be flexible. In any case, students are encouraged to contact me if they anticipate needing longer for an assignment.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Cornell College wishes to include fully persons with disabilities in this course. In compliance with section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Cornell College is committed to ensure that "no otherwise qualified individual with a disability ... shall, solely by reason of disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity..." If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to inform the professor within the first three days of class. It is also your responsibility to contact and register with the office of Academic Support and provide them with documentation of your disability so they can determine what accommodations are appropriate for your situation.

To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the office of Academic Support as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations cannot be provided after the three-day grace period and until an "Accommodation Cover Letter" from the office of Academic Support has been put in the student's file from the Coordinator, Brooke Paulsen. Please contact Academic Support for more information about receiving accommodations through Brooke Paulsen, Cole Library #309, (310) 895-4382, bpaulsen@cornellcollege.edu. Please feel free to explore Cornell College's website for more information on accommodations.
<http://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml>.

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Tentative Course Itinerary

W	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	Introduction and Review	Introduction and Review	Travel to Vienna	<p>Arrival in Vienna</p> <p>Check into apartments, procure groceries</p> <p>Group Outing: Imperial Treasury & Kunsthistorisches Museum (afternoon)</p>	<p>Group Outing: Schloss Belvedere @ 10 am</p> <p>Group Outing: Tour of Vienna State Opera @ 2 pm</p> <p>Optional: Opera performance of La Cenerentola @ 7 pm (buy standing tickets day of)</p>	<p>Group Outing: Transit Museum @ 10 am</p> <p>Optional: Opera performance of Madame Butterfly @ 7:30 pm (buy standing tickets day of)</p>	<p>Group Outing: Schloss Schönbrunn @ 10 am</p>
2	<p>Travel to Munich</p> <p>Settle into hotel; explore</p>	Group Outing: Tour of Audi factory in Ingolstadt @ 11:30 am	Group Outing: Tour of Allianz Arena @ 9:45 am	Group Outing: Deutsches Museum @ 10 am	Group Outing: Pinakothek Museum @ 10:30 am	Explore Munich	<p>Travel to Berlin</p> <p>Settle into hotel; explore city</p>
3	Group Outing: Berlin City Mission @ 10:30 am	Group Outing: Urban Safari in Kreuzberg @ 10 am (all day, including dinner)	<p>Group Outing: Hohenschönhausen (Stasi Prison) @ 10:30 am</p> <p>Group Outing: Stasi Museum @ 2 pm</p>	<p>Group Outing: Sanssouci Palace @ 1:40 pm</p> <p>Group Outing: Parliament session and tour of cupola @ 6 pm</p>	Group Outing: German History Museum @ 10 am	Explore Berlin	Explore Berlin
4	Travel back to U.S.	NO CLASS	NO CLASS				

GER 205/3XX Syllabus Addendum

Students taking GER 265 for GER 205/3XX credit will complete the assignments outlined above plus:

- DEUTSCH: Students will make every effort to communicate in German while in Vienna, Munich, and Berlin. Of course Germans and Austrians will respond to you in English even when you've crafted a perfectly good sentence or question; of course you will make mistakes and not know how to say certain things; of course you will want to speak English with your classmates who cannot speak German. BUT you will make every effort to use your German, and you will push through the first few hurdles (responses in English--keep speaking German; don't know how to say something--think of a different way to say it with words you know; etc. etc.).
- TRAVEL DIARY: You will write these in German. You may also write in English (as a way of sharing your experiences with your family/friends), but any English should just be on top of (and not instead of) the German reflections. These will of course not be error free, and that's ok, and they can be a little shorter than what you might write in English (and remember that your English text can supplement the German).
- PODCASTS: You will use some of your German skills in your podcast. This might show up in a lot of different ways, but somehow, somewhere, your German skills should aid you in the podcast creation.
- NEW WORDS: There are probably too many new words to keep a good running list of them, so this is **optional**. But I encourage you to keep a notebook/digital note of new words and phrases you encounter. You might even create a Quizlet set to this effect!

GER 485 Syllabus Addendum

Students taking GER 265 for GER 205/3XX credit will complete the assignments outlined above plus:

- Creation of a compelling, original project using German language and on a topic of the student's choice.
 - Please create and share with me a short proposal of the project idea by Sunday, DEC 2. We will then discuss this and make plans for your completion of the project.
 - Grading rubric will be based on the project design but includes, generally, the following metrics:
 - Project design
 - Quality of prose
 - Clarity of argument
 - Depth of investigation
 - Use of sources