



SYLLABUS

Winter/Spring Session Only

THE BIRTHPLACE OF PSYCHOANALYSIS: PSYCHOLOGY IN VIENNA

Dr. Christine Stromberger

Contact Hrs: 40 per Quarter/45 per Semester

Language of Instruction: English

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Objectives of the course:

From 1900 until 1938 Vienna was, for about two decades, a city of outstanding intellectual atmosphere. Already early in the 20th century a remarkable development of psychological theories took place at the University of Vienna. At the same time Sigmund Freud was about to 'invent' Psychoanalysis. Alfred Adler, a socialist and student of Sigmund Freud, developed his own school. Wilhelm Reich, psychoanalyst at the age of 23, became the head of a 'Seminar for psychoanalytical therapy'. The Vienna Psychological Institute was founded (1922) and an important group of psychologists concentrated on social-paedagogy and developmental psychology (e.g. Charlotte Bühler, Helene Deutsch).

After Austria's *Anschluss* to the National socialist Third Reich in 1938 almost all psychoanalysts, scientists and other intellectuals had to leave Austria and went into exile. During the war the Nazi regime, some representatives of psychology and medicine/psychiatry established a brutal alliance which ended in the killing of numerous innocent people, mainly children, in a psychiatric hospital in Vienna. It took a long time before this dark chapter in Austria's history became a serious issue of reappraisal.

The conception of social psychology in the twenties of the last century in Vienna has been taken up again after the war and in some areas – like child care – the social-pedagogical approach initially developed already before WW II (Anna Freud, Helene Deutsch e.g.) is especially taken care of until now in some institutions. .

Students should learn about the development and the meaning of psychology ('the study of the mind') for Vienna in the early 20th century; they should acquire knowledge about one of the main schools in psychology, the in-depth therapies, including individual psychology and psychoanalyses, founded in Vienna, by its main representative, S. Freud. Students also should learn that there was not only the glorious period at the beginning of the century but the very dark chapter in psychology/medicine during the Nazi regime. In this context they will be enabled to discuss and reflect on the deadly alliance between science, 'closed institutions' (hospitals, prisons) and totalitarian power. But students also will learn (and see in some excursions) that after a long period of silence Austria/Vienna has been trying to reappraise the dark side of the history.

Methodology:

Instructions will include lectures, reading and discussion of texts; preparation for classes and excursion as well as active participation in classes and excursions is required. Guest speakers will be invited and several excursions will be organised.

Evaluation/Grading:

There will be a mid term exam (20%) and a final exam (20 %); students have to work on a paper or excursion report (about 10 pages, individually or in small groups, 30 %); constructive participation in classes and excursions is worth 30 % of the course grade.

Excursions:

1. Narrenturm ('Mad tower')
2. Steinhof (Psychiatric hospital; exhibition NS-medicine), one of the most significant Art nouveau buildings by Otto Wagner
3. Memorial for the victims of the Nazis in Steinhof (the Spiegelgrund-clinic) on the Zentralfriedhof (Vienna's largest cemetery)
4. Sigmund Freud Museum
5. Anna Freud Kindergarten

Literature:

Foucault, M.: *The Birth of Asylum, in: Madness and Civilization. A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason.* New York 1988.

Gardner, S., Stevens, G.: *Red Vienna and the Golden Age of Psychology 1918-1938.* New York 1992

Janik, A., Toulmin, St.: *Wittgenstein's Vienna.* New York 1973.

Jahoda, M., Lazarsfeld, P., Ziesel, H.: *Marienthal. The Sociography of an Unemployed Community.* Chicago 2002 (originally published 1971 in Chicago).

Selected texts will be proposed according to special interests and projects and to prepare for excursions.

Course Outline:

1. General Introduction
(Presentation of participants, requirements etc.)
2. Psychology and politics in interwar Vienna

3. Continuation, including the Vienna Psychological Institute 1922 – 1938
4. The unit for social psychology:
Paul Lazarsfeld and Maria Jahoda - The Marienthal study

5. + 6 The 'Gurus'
Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler, Karl Bühler

7. Visit to the Sigmund Freud Museum
8. Personality theories (S. Freud, A. Adler, W. Reich, H. Deutsch, C.G. Jung, Ch. Bühler)

9. Continuation: Personality theories
10. From educational reform to child therapy (Anna Freud)

11. Visit to the Anna Freud Kindergarten
12. Mid-term evaluation

13. Psychoanalysis in Austria after 1933/34
14. Psychological Diaspora

15. Michel Foucault: The Birth of Asylum
16. Visit to the 'Narrenturm' ('mad tower')

17. Diagnosis 'useless'.
The Nazi medicine in Vienna's Psychiatric Hospital Steinhof/Spiegelgrund
18. Visit to Steinhof/Psychiatric Hospital

19. Continuation: discussion, reflections related to the visit to Steinhof
20. Visit to the memorial of the victims of the Spiegelgrund-clinic at the Wiener Zentralfriedhof (cemetery)

21. Presentation of papers: discussion, feedback
22. Final evaluation