

C 365

Interwar Central Europe: Cultural Florescence and Apocalyptic Vision

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Syllabus : Second Eight Weeks Fall 2008

1. What is art? How is 20th century art different from previous periods?
What is the function of art in our culture? The scientific revolution on the break of the centuries and its effect on culture. Darwin, Freud, Heisenberg, Bohr, Einstein, Marx.
2. Semiotic revolution of art and mind. Historical roots of the multinational culture of Austria and its characteristics.
Reading: S. Zweig, *The World of Yesterday*, Ch. I - IV.
S. Freud: The new model of the human mind and theory of culture.
Reading: *Civilization and its Discontents*, pp. 5-32, 81-92.
3. The atmosphere and values in Austria in early 20th century.
Reading: R. Musil: *Man without Qualities*, pp. xi-xxv, 3-23.
4. World War I and the German point of view. Th. Mann: *The Magic Mountain*.
Reading: Ch. "Snow".
5. World War I and the Czech point of view. Jaroslav Hašek: *The Good Soldier Švejk*.
Reading: Part I, Ch. 1 and 4, Part III, Ch. 3.
6. Austria after WW I.
Reading: A. Zweig: Ch. VIII-XIII.
7. The Weimar Republic, historical and cultural situation.
Reading: P. Gay: *Weimar Culture*, Ch. I-II-III and Appendix I.
8. The Birth of Czechoslovakia.
Reading: J.V. Polišenský: *History of Czechoslovakia in Outline*, pp. 96-120.

9. German Jewish literature in Bohemia: Werfel, Kafka, Kisch, Brod, Haas and the situation of Czech German speaking Jews.
Reading: *The Jews of Czechoslovakia*, V. I: pp. 468-472, 481-510.
Kafka: *The Trial*, pp.vii-xxi, 197-229.
10. The Polish perspective. S. I. Witkiewicz: *Insatiability*.
Reading: pp. vii-xxi, 3-6, 77-121..
11. The Czech Warning. K. Čapek: *The War with the Newts*.
Reading: Chs. “Andrias Scheuchzeri”, “Andrew Scheuchzer”, “Der Nordmolch”, “The Chief Salamander Presents His Demands”, pp. 104-121, 276-282, 307-313.
12. The Victory of Barbarism in Europe.
Reading: S. Zweig: Ch. XIV-XVI, P. Gay: Ch. IV-VI,

Requirements: 1 paper 10 pages (undergraduates), 15 pages (graduates) on one of the novels covered = 40%, participation in class = 35%, final exam = 35%. Missing class will lower your grade. Literature to your paper must include at least three book sources apart from internet.