

Spring 2016

**HIST 585-004: Special Topics in History:**

Topic: Fin-de-Siècle Europe/Modernity

Instructor	Day(s)	Time(s)	Maximum Enrollment
Vick	TU	4:15 – 7:15 pm	15

**Semester Description:**

Examines major themes and approaches in the study of modern urban culture and political culture, through the examples of France, Germany, and the Habsburg Empire circa 1860-1914.

This discussion-driven seminar will explore exciting trends in the study of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Europe, with a focus upon the crisis-ridden transition to mass politics, mass culture, and urban modernity. The course will touch on high and popular culture, the development of urban modernity and modernism, the rise of radical nationalist and antisemitic politics, the relationship between colonialism and the metropole, changing conceptions and experiences of gender, the invention of tradition, and the spread of urban currents into rural areas. You may also find yourselves becoming strangely familiar with the world cities Paris, Vienna, and Berlin, our prime examples. The range of important and innovative approaches covered makes this course helpful for students doing research or preparing exams in other fields and disciplines as well.

**Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:**

1. Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture* (Vintage Books, 1981). ISBN-13: 978-0394744780.
2. Stephen Beller, ed., *Rethinking Vienna 1900* (Berghahn Books, 2001). ISBN-13: 978-1571811400.
3. Vanessa Schwartz, *Spectacular Realities: Early Mass Culture in Fin-de-Siècle Paris* (California UP, 1998). ISBN-13: 978-0520221680.
4. Peter Fritzsche, *Reading Berlin 1900* (Harvard UP, 1996). ISBN-13: 978-0674748828.
5. H. Glenn Penny, *Objects of Culture: Ethnology and Ethnographic Museums in Imperial Germany* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002). ISBN-13: 978-0807854303.
6. Edward Berenson, *The Trial of Madame Caillaux* (California UP, 1992). ISBN-13: 978-0520084285.
7. Helmut Walser Smith, *The Butcher's Tale: Murder and Anti-Semitism in a German Town* (Norton, 2003). ISBN-13: 978-0393325058.

Spring 2016

8. Paul Lerner, *The Consuming Temple: Jews, Department Stores, and the Consumer Revolution in Germany, 1880-1940* (Cornell University Press, 2015).  
ISBN-13: 978-0801452864.

**Grading:**

- Active participation in class discussion,
- A short analytical book review,
- Two presentations, and
- A longer final historiographic review essay.