



Schönbrunn Palace (from Wikimedia Commons, © C. Stadler/Bwag)

Study Abroad Course in Austria

Cultural History of Vienna

Spring Term 2025 with four weeks of travel
Open to all majors

Since 1700, Vienna has been one of the great cultural centers of the world. For the last ten years, it has been declared “the world’s most livable city.” As the capital of the Habsburg Empire until 1918, it developed into a multicultural city with a rich artistic life including music, literature, and the visual arts. The urban landscape features gorgeous historic buildings and gardens, open-air markets, and a famous café lifestyle. The pastries and coffee may be the best in the world. Our course will introduce all of this by combining historical studies; exposure to art, music, and theater; and experiences of daily life in Vienna, centered in a neighborhood with a strong Turkish flavor. We will make use of the superlative public transit to explore the city’s 23 districts, each with unique attractions, including famous palaces, museums, churches, parks, and vineyards; Europe’s first zoo and first snow globe factory; and a famous Ferris wheel.

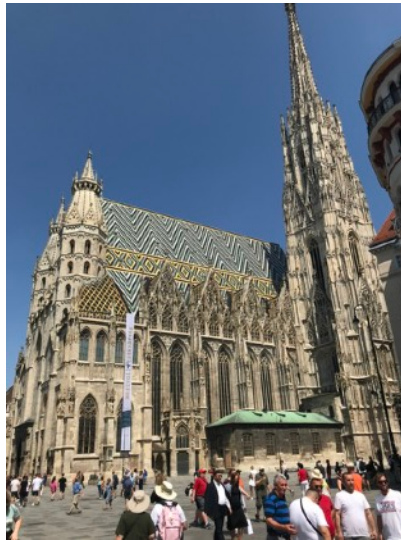


The Staatsoper (Opera House)

Music is central to Viennese identity: on any day of the week, there are multiple choices for high-quality, affordable performances of orchestral, solo, and chamber music. Several theaters feature spoken and musical drama and ballet. Our group will attend some performances together, and students will be able to select others that match their interests. We will take a weekend trip to the beautiful city of Innsbruck in the Austrian Alps, once the capital of the Holy Roman Empire.



The baroque splendor of the Peterskirche (St. Peter's Church)



The heart of the city: the Stephansdom (St. Stephen's Cathedral)



The Rathaus (City Hall)



The old and the new. The Spinnerin am Kreuz, dating back to at least the 15th century, still proudly welcomes travelers to Vienna from the south on the Triesterstrasse, despite being surrounded by very modern car dealerships.



Outdoor dining among the vineyards, at one of Vienna's legendary Heurigen (winery restaurants)



We have connections! The 2023 group meets with Christopher Gibbs, one of the authors of the famous textbook many of them used in their GVSU music history course, at a new branch of the historic Café Sluka. We met here because this was formerly the café of the renowned Zwieback high-fashion department store, owned by the family of Ella Zirner-Zwieback, the grandmother of a GVSU music graduate.

The course will begin with several class meetings during Winter 2025. As a seminar, it will be set up so that each student will research a topic before we travel and present to the group soon after we arrive. The course counts as a 300-level course in History, Music, or Social Studies and also meets Gen Ed requirements: Global Perspectives and either an Arts Foundation or Issues course. It is open to all majors, and the final paper will link each student's academic interests to course themes.

The priority deadline to apply to the program is December 1, 2024. This puts you at the front of the line for grants and scholarships. The final application deadline is February 1, 2025.



For more information on Study Abroad programs in general and instructions on how to apply, go to

gvsu.edu/studyabroad

If you have questions on the specifics of this program, contact Professor Feurzeig at feurzeil@gvsu.edu

