Looking at major political and cultural changes in one of the most fascinating cities of Europe, this course tells the tale of Vienna 1900 in the context of fin-de-siècle Europe.

In this flamboyant cultural center of Europe, creativity was flourishing in the arts, literature, music, philosophy, the social sciences, medicine, mathematics, and mechanical engineering. Adolf Loos revolutionized architecture, Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele developed new means of artistic expression in unusual paintings, Wittgenstein conceived his path-breaking theories of language; Sigmund Freud uncovered substructures of the human psyche, while Arnold Schönberg developed the twelve-tone music, and Karl Kraus wrote his superb polemics against journalists and politicians. Viennese philosophers, artists, musicians, writers, and scientists anticipated the most crucial issues and debates of our time.

This multi-media course investigates the parallels between Vienna and other European capitals such as Paris, Berlin, and London at the turn of the last century, introducing students to the multifaceted fin-de-siècle European, in particular Viennese culture in its relation to the present time. It gives special attention to the radical changes and innovative ideas in a variety of different disciplines from literature, music, the arts to political and social sciences.

Ger 1528 fulfills one general-education requirement (Foreign Culture/Int. (Reg.)) and also counts towards the West European Studies certificate. The course will be taught in English. Prerequisite(s): none. Course Requirements: 2 oral presentations, mid-term, final paper. For further information, please contact: paxpeace@pitt.edu