

**Vienna**  
**Crossroads of Central Europe**  
**UC Davis Summer Abroad**  
**Prof. Kathy Stuart**  
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Dear Students!

Do you have plans for August 2024? Think about enrolling in my UC Davis Summer Abroad Program, "Vienna: Crossroads of Central Europe!" It runs Aug 1-31, and allows you to earn 8 units in history one month. In addition, German majors or minors earn 8 or 4 units towards their German degree. Highlights of the program include: trip to the Austrian Alps (we reach our [mountain-top lodge](#) by gondola, since there are no roads!); exploring the [Danube River](#), medieval fortresses and vineyards, wine tastings in Vienna's many [wine gardens](#), and live performances of Mozart. The Vienna Program is among the most economical Summer Abroad programs offered by UC Davis. Get an impression of Vienna on our [Instagram](#), and visit the [program website](#) and read about students' adventures in their blogs. We set up a [Facebook group](#) for Vienna 2024 where you can connect with prospective 2024 students and Vienna alums, and plan for travel before and after the program. Apply at [UC Davis Summer Abroad](#). Please email me at [kestuart@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kestuart@ucdavis.edu) if with any questions about the program.

Here's an example of the many fascinating things we'll see in Vienna:



This is one of hundreds of so-called catacomb saints you find in Vienna and around Austria, elaborately decked out in precious jewelry and fabrics, a fascinating artifact of the Baroque cult of saints. Austria has lots to offer for lovers of the macabre. To see more of these skeletons with bling, go [here](#). We actually go on a treasure hunt in search of these saints' relics. I take the winner out to one of Vienna's classic coffee houses where we eat Vienna's signature [Sachertorte](#) (*natürlich mit Schlagobers!*) and sample some of their many coffee creations.

To get an impression of some other topics we'll be covering check out the video clips and images below:

\*On the Holocaust: "[I have Never Forgotten You](#)" (2006):

\*On Vienna modernism and psychoanalysis: "[A Dangerous Method](#)" (2011) , an edgy, entertaining movie:

\*and on a much lighter note, of course, "[The Sound of Music](#)" (1965) (The mountains really do look like that, by the way. No special effects here.)

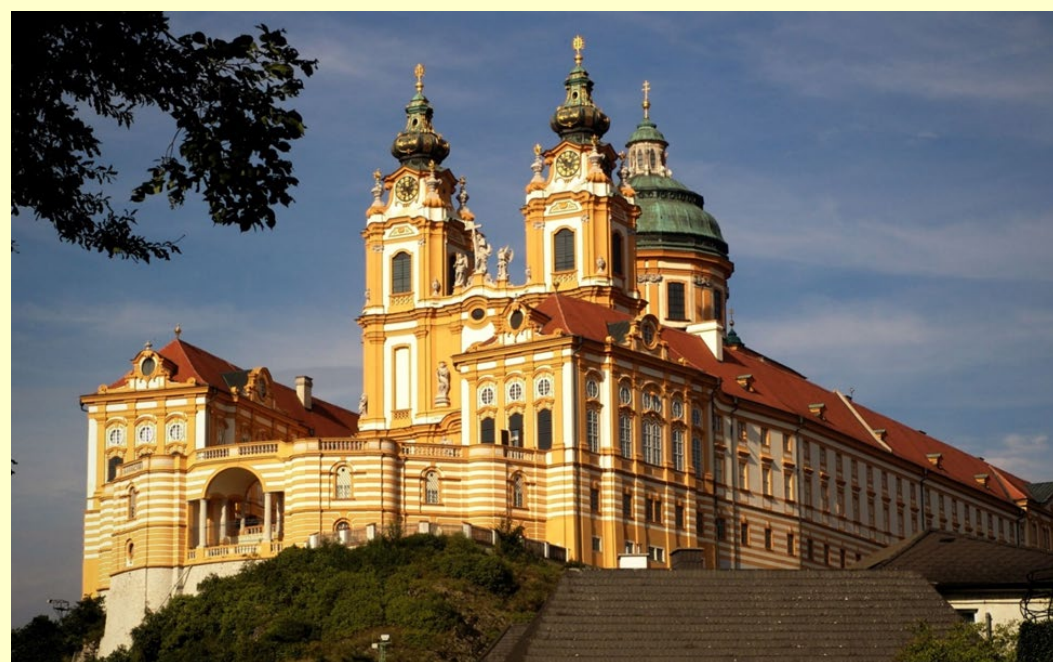
\*One of my favorite things to do in Austria is to bike along the Danube River, through one of the oldest wine growing regions in the world (10,000 years!). This [video](#) shows you what you see as you bike through the vineyards.

\*On food in Vienna, watch Anthony Bourdain [No Reservations](#): "Blood sausage; hunting, pastries and something called "Pus Stick" challenge Tony's preconception of Vienna as a pastry-filled "Sound of Music" nightmare." (By the way, I offer extra credit for adventurous eating ☺.)

\*Don't miss [the student-produced Rap](#) video about the Vienna program (as far as I know the Vienna program is the only UCD class that has ever inspired a Rap performance!). And, check out our [Instagram](#).



The imperial crown above was worn by the Holy Roman Emperor of the German Nation from about 950 to 1805. To the right, you see Charlemagne (r. 800-814) wearing the crown.



We are going to hear a live performance of Mozart's Requiem in St. Charles Church. The combination of the beautiful environment and Mozart's music is an ethereal experience. I think these images above of St. Charles Church inside and outside give you an idea of what I mean.

Melk Monastery high up on the banks along the Danube River above.

Here are some impressions of our excursion to the Alps. Vienna student Juliet Kaufmann enjoying a Zen moment during our hike. (By the way, Juliet, who graduated from UCB in English, is the producer of the Vienna rap mentioned above).



This is your state of mind after a day of strenuous hiking in the Alps:



Of course, there are risks in going to Vienna: you could end up going local like these California boys did!



**Vienna: Crossroads of Central Europe, August 1-31, 2024.**

Vienna, one of Europe's great imperial capitals, is our classroom. Vienna was the scene of epic battles between Christians and Muslims as Ottoman Turks besieged the city. We explore religious art of the sixteenth century and retrace seventeenth-century pilgrimages to sacred shrines and saints' relics. We visit Baroque and Rococo palaces where Austrian imperial ambitions were reflected in architecture and design. A musical capital, Vienna was home to Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Schubert, Strauss. More classical composers lived in Vienna than in any other city. We experience classic coffee house culture, as centers of enlightened sociability, *fin-de-siècle* intellectual life, and political culture—Trotsky and Lenin were regulars at Vienna's famous Café Central. Modernity emerged in the cosmopolitan multi-ethnic metropolis around 1900, as we study in the works of Freud and Klimt.

With the collapse of the Habsburg Empire after World War I and the establishment of the Austrian Republic, we turn to the rise of National Socialism, with a particular focus on Adolf Hitler's time in Vienna. We learn about the experience of Viennese Jews through the memoirs of Ruth Klüger, who was deported from Vienna to Auschwitz as a young girl. We visit Mauthausen, Austria's most notorious concentration camp, where Simon Wiesenthal was freed by American forces in 1945. At the end of allied occupation, Vienna, officially "neutral", became a center of international diplomacy and a hotbed of cold war espionage, and, with the collapse of the Soviet Empire, a new gateway to Eastern Europe. We visit the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and other international organizations in Vienna. The class takes an interdisciplinary approach, so that it is aimed at students in German, comparative literature, art history, architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, music and musicology, philosophy, psychology, religious studies, Jewish studies, film studies, political science, and international relations, as well as history. The program includes an excursion to the Austrian Alps. The program is taught in English. Students earn eight units.



**Downtown Vienna**



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