Vienna, Austria: Comparative Politics/Law
WFU Summer I Program

Vienna is the city that gave waltz to the world. Mozart, Haydn, Strauss, Schubert, Brahms, and Beethoven are just a few of the many composers who lived and worked in Vienna. In addition to its rich musical history, Vienna is a culturally diverse and vibrant city. It is home to the Vienna Boys' Choir, the famous Lipizzaner stallions, and countless coffee houses (an integral part of Viennese life). Perhaps less well known is Austria’s fascinating political and legal culture.

Students will take Comparative Constitutional Law, either as POL 114 (Div. IV) or POL 242 for majors and minors. The course will focus on issues of governmental structure (federalism, parliamentary v. presidential systems, judicial review) and of human rights in comparative perspective. Vienna, as the capitol city of Austria, provides a number of venues for studying comparative constitutional law. Austria has a federal system, but the way in which it operates differs from both the U.S. and German cases. It was one of the first European countries to adopt constitutional review by the courts. One of the human rights issues we will study is freedom of speech and press, and in particular, how different countries deal with the issue of hate speech. The U.S. response to Nazism, for example, is quite different than it is in Europe, and we will explore the way in which the World War II experiences helped shape different free speech regimes. We will take advantage of museums both in the city of Vienna and outside of it to enhance our understanding of these issues. Field trips will include visits to the Austrian Constitutional Court, the Austrian Parliament and Mauthausen concentration camp.

Students will stay in the WFU property, the Flow House, which is situated in a northwest section of Vienna, one block from the Turkenschanz Park. Located in the prestigious 19th district, the area is well-known for its embassies, diplomatic residences, and distinguished private homes.

Courses: POL 114 (Div. IV) or POL 242 (3hrs)
Dates: Summer Session I, May 17 to June 18, 2016
Accommodations: Flow House
Cost: Program Fee (estimated) - $3,000
Tuition (3 hrs, estimated) - $2,700
Airfare (estimated) - $1,700
Personal Expenses (estimated) - $1,500
Estimated Total Program Cost - $8,900
Scholarships: Available through the GPS

To learn more, contact:
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To apply:
Go to studyabroad.wfu.edu
Application Deadline:
February 15, 2016