

The course: “Austria’s Foreign Policy since 1945” by Dr. Johannes Strasser

MA Course in Modern German and European Studies

Course Hours: 2 ECTS

Semester Gimmel 2026

1. Assignments / Requirements for completion

- According to University regulations, students must attend at least 80% of the sessions to graduate from the course.
- Participation in class 25%
- 1 class presentation 25%
- Take-home exam or alternative seminar paper 50%

2. Bibliography (selection)

1. Aschheim, Daniel: Kreisky, Israel and Jewish Identity. University of New Orleans Press. 2022.
2. Bischof, Günther/Pelinka, Anton: The Kreisky Era in Austria. Contemporary Austrian Studies, vol. II. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction. 1994.
3. Bischof, Günther: Austria’s international position after the end of the Cold War. New Orleans, Univ. of New Orleans Press. 2013.
4. Bischof, Günther: Democracy in Austria. New Orleans, UNO Press. 2019.
5. Bischof, Günther and Plasser, Fritz: Austria’s Place in Europe and the World. Innsbruck university press. 2011.
6. Cede, F. and Prosl, C.: Ambition and reality, Austria’s Foreign Policy since 1945. Innsbruck, Wien, Bozen, Studien Verlag. 2017.
7. Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs: Foreign and European Policy Report: several editions.
8. Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs: Vienna Centre for International Dialogue. Vienna. 2019.

9. Karner, S. and Iber, Walter M.: A Heavy Legacy and Wiedergutmachung, Compensation and Restitution in Austria. Innsbruck, Wien, Bozen, Studien Verlag. 2019.
10. Nye, Joseph S.: The Future of Power. New York, Public Affairs. 2011.
11. Ramcharan, Bertrand G.: The UN Human Rights Council. London, Routledge. 2011.
12. Ramcharan, Bertrand G.: The law, policy and politics of the UN Human Rights Council. Leiden, Brill Nijhoff. 2015.
13. Sharp, Paul: Diplomacy in the 21st century: a brief introduction. London, Routledge. 2019.
14. Sonnleitner, Sandra: Bilateral diplomacy and EU membership. Baden-Baden, Nomos. 2018.

3. Short Description and learning outcome

This course will give an overview of Austria's foreign policy since 1945. It will provide insights and discuss aims and features of the foreign policy of Austria. While discussing general principles and guidelines, the course will focus on the following main areas:

- Austria's place in Europe (European Union and regional cooperation/partnerships)
- Austria and the United Nations (focus on human rights)
- Compensation and Restitution policies after WWII
- Cultural diplomacy of Austria

The first session will provide a general introduction to diplomacy and its key features and will then focus on Austria's foreign policy beginning with the situation right after WW II. This introductory session will be followed by a substantive discussion on Austria's situation during the cold war and its accession to the European Union. In a subsequent session, Austria's compensation and restitution policies will be at the center of discussion. The last sessions will focus on Austria and the United Nations, in particular human rights, and the cultural diplomacy activities of Austria abroad. At the end, enough time will be dedicated to discuss and prepare for the take-home exam.

The course will be interactive with enough time provided for discussion on priority topics of students. Guest speakers will give students interesting insights and the possibility to deepen their knowledge. The course will be held in English and is open to all MA students at the University of Haifa. It is especially relevant for the MA students of "Modern German and European Studies", "Diplomacy Studies", "Peace and Conflict Studies" and to all MA students of Political Science. The course aims to provide students with a more in-depth knowledge of Austria's foreign policy. This will equip students with a better understanding of Austria's place in Europe and in a globalized world.

4. Grading

- Participation in class 25%
- 1 class presentation 25%
- Take-home exam or alternative seminar paper 50%

5. Course plan (subject to changes)

1. Monday, 29 June 2026, 17:00-19:00 (online ZOOM)

General introduction, preliminary remarks on Austria's foreign policy.

Situation right after WW II.

2. Wednesday, 1 July 2026, 17:00-19:00 (online ZOOM)

General introduction, preliminary remarks on Austria's foreign policy.

Situation right after WW II.

3. Monday, 6 July 2026, 17:00-19:00 (online ZOOM)

Austria's place in Europe (European Union, regional Organizations).

4. Tuesday, 7 July 2026, 17:00-19:00 (online ZOOM)

Austria's place in Europe (European Union, regional Organizations).

5. Monday, 13 July 2026, 17:00-19:00 (online ZOOM)

Austria's place in Europe (European Union, regional Organizations).

Compensation and Restitution policies

6. Sunday, 19 July 2026, 10:00-14:00 (Haifa University campus)

Compensation and Restitution policies

7. Monday, 20 July 2026, 10:00-14:00 (Haifa University campus)

Austria and the United Nations.

8. Tuesday, 21 July 2026, 10:00-14:00 (Haifa University campus)

Austrian cultural diplomacy.

9. Thursday, 23 July 2026, 10:00-14:00 (Haifa University campus)

Austrian cultural diplomacy.

10. Tuesday, 28 July 2026, 17:00-19:00 (online ZOOM)

Wrap-up. Discussion on take-home exam or alternative seminar paper.