

Course Outline KULIS

Course title	The Shadows of Past: Linz and Upper Austria in the Nazi-Period
Date/duration	Winter semester 2026/27
Lecturer	Dr. Verena Lorber
Teaching language	English
ECTS	3 ECTS

Contents

Within the framework of this course the international students that come to Linz have the opportunity to get to know the regional contemporary history. The places of Hitlers birth and young age are all in Upper Austria. In the time of National Socialism, Linz was one of the “Führerstädte” or “cities of Führer”. The concentration camp Mauthausen and the euthanasia-site Hartheim were central places of Nazi-crimes close to Linz. Linz was also home to a small Jewish community whose destruction in 1938 will be among the topics. Furthermore Upper Austria was home to Franz Jägerstätter, the best known conscientious objector of catholic faith that was executed in 1943 for his refusal to fight in the German Wehrmacht. Therefore the questions of dealing with this past are of great meaning for Linz and Upper Austria.

The introductory classes offer an overview of the history of National Socialism with particular focus of the region Linz/Upper Austria. In the excursions the students will learn about the memorial sites and will gain insight in the theory and praxis of commemorative culture and politics.

Learning outcomes

- Knowledge about the history of Nationalsocialism in Austria with focus on Linz and Upper Austria
- Knowledge about collective memory and memory policy in Past-War Austria
- Ability to use analytical concepts of the historical sciences such as “Resistance”, “Victimhood”, “Perpetrators”, “Memory Policy”, “Collective Memory” etc.
- Conceptual Framework of Modern Memorial Sites and Exhibitions in Austria

Teaching and learning methods

2 introductory class meetings with input lessons, 3 excursions and 1 final class meeting (reflection)

More details tba

Course preparation
None
Additional literature
To be announced
Assessment (%) (methods of examination, requirements for awarding credit points)
Active participation, readings, and submission of written reflections on two out of three excursions
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