

Vienna, 1500–2019: Crossroads of Central Europe

History 102s & 198

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Vienna, one of Europe's great imperial capitals, is our classroom. We study European society, politics, and culture through an Austrian lens. An interplay of religion and politics shaped the reign of the Habsburg dynasty that ruled Austria from 1273 to 1918. Religious upheavals of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries are revealed in art and architecture. We visit sacred shrines and saints' relics to understand Catholic spirituality. Vienna was the scene of epic battles between Christians and Muslims, as Ottoman Turks besieged the city. We visit Baroque and Rococo palaces where Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven performed. We spend time in classic Vienna Coffeehouses, scenes of enlightened sociability and intellectual life. We trace the emergence of modernism and modernity in the cosmopolitan multi-ethnic metropolis around 1900, in the works of Sigmund Freud and Gustav Klimt.

With the collapse of the Habsburg Empire after World War I and the emergence of the Austrian Republic, we turn to the rise of National Socialism, with a particular focus on Adolph Hitler's time in Vienna. We reconstruct 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 death camp. At the United Nations, we learn about the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—much in the news today—and explore post-war Vienna in as a center of international diplomacy, past and present. With the collapse of the Soviet Empire, Vienna became a new gateway to Eastern Europe. We take an interdisciplinary approach, so this program is for students interested 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 and history.

Class Web Page: Take your time exploring [here](#). I've posted lots of useful information, including blogs by students and a rap video that Vienna students made.

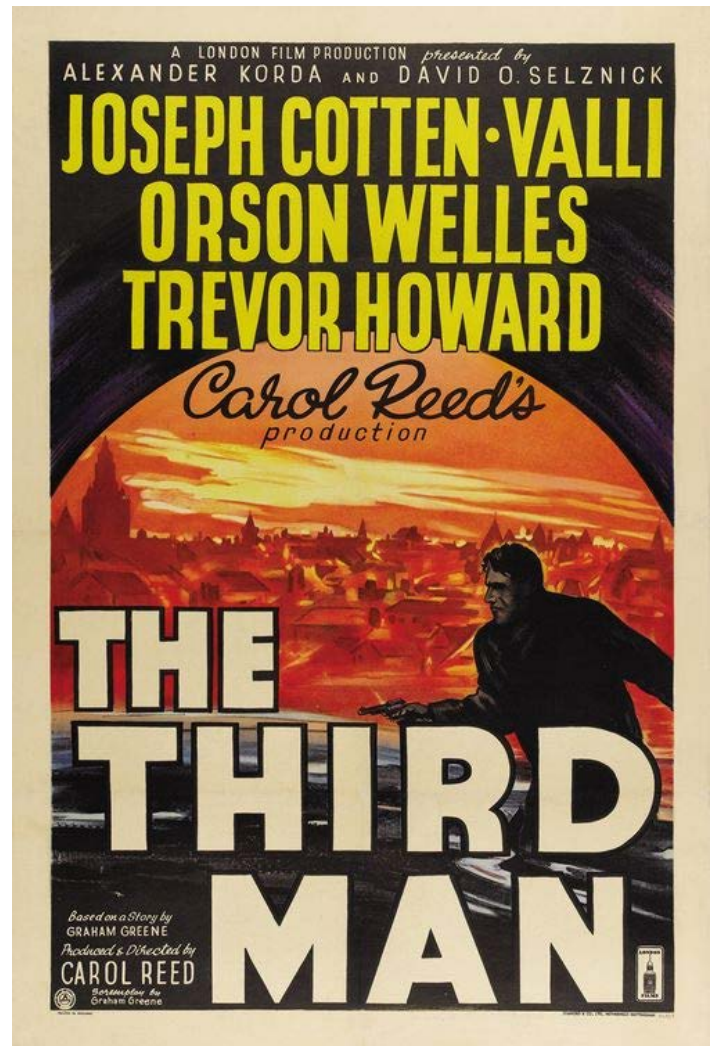
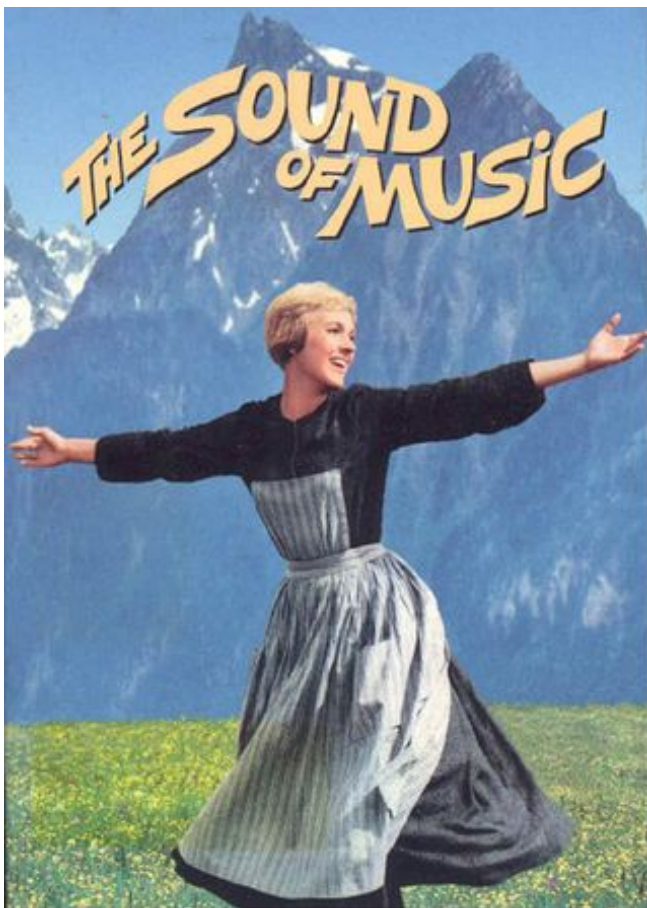
Facebook page: Please join the [Vienna 2019 Facebook group](#).

Use it to connect with one another, make travel plans, etc. I also post academic content and announcements here.

Canvas: Access assigned readings marked "W" here. Upload your blog urls and term paper here.

Required Readings:

1. Steven Beller, *A Concise History of Austria* (Cambridge Concise Histories) Cambridge University Press 2007) ISBN-10: 0521478863
2. Ruth Klüger, *Still Alive: A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered* (New York: Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2001). ISBN 1558614362
3. Nicholas Parsons, *Vienna: A Cultural History* (Cityscapes)(Oxford University Press 2008) ISBN-10: 0195376072



4. Selections at www.habsburger.net

5. Other readings, required and optional, can be accessed at the class website, marked "W" in the syllabus:

Recommended: A German Phrasebook

Both the Berlitz and the Lonely Planet phrasebooks (with included German/English, English/German mini-dictionaries) are better than average and also good buys. The Lonely Planet is a little more user-friendly as well as a lot more amusing. Having both a phrasebook and a guidebook will help you a lot.

Required Films:

A Woman in Gold (2015).

I Have Never Forgotten You: The Life & Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal (2006).

The Sound of Music (1965). Not just fun, but also an interesting reflection of how Austria was viewed in the post-war period. What does Beller have to say about this movie?

The Third Man (1949). We'll see this in Vienna at the Burg Kino.

Das Experiment (The Experiment) (2001). Relate the film to our discussion of Nazi perpetrators.



Course Requirements:

-Attendance in class and all field trips is mandatory. If you miss any excursion for any reason other than serious bodily injury, you must make it up on your own time and your own dime. Participation in class discussion of assigned readings (15 %).

-Term paper: 10 page paper (25%). Submit the paper online. You are encouraged to add images, but the images should not be included in the page count. Include title page and bibliography, but don't include them in page count.

Topic 1: How did the Habsburg dynasty represent itself in art, architecture and religious ritual? Think about art as an instrument of political power. Analyze Habsburg absolutist reign as practice and performance. What role did such artistic, religious and cultural representation play in the practice of divine-right absolutism? How did Habsburg monarchs use religious, artistic and cultural displays to legitimize and enact their reign? Draw on Beller, Parsons, Duindam (W) and relevant sections of www.habsburger.net, as well as your explorations of the city and relevant museums (Kunsthistorische Museum, Schatzkammer, Hofburg, Kapuzinergruft, as well as statues and monuments throughout the city.)

Topic 2: Ruth Klüger's autobiography and the politics of memory. You must also draw on the documentary *I Have Never Forgotten You* on Simon Wiesenthal, and upon Parsons, Beller, and your visits to Mauthausen,

Mauthausen web materials, the Jewish Museum, and holocaust and war memorials in Vienna (and if possible elsewhere), and the Zentralfriedhof in Vienna.

-Research journal/blog (30%): This is your most important assignment. See the instructions at end of syllabus. For part of the content of your blog, go to <http://www.nytimes.com/>. Click on "My Account" and sign up for email alerts about "Vienna", "United Nations AND Vienna", and about the "International Atomic Energy Agency". (Select "topic" rather than "keyword", or you will get too many emails.) How are these topics covered in the news? Comment on this in your journal. Feel free to provide excerpts or links. Review the UN and IAEA emails thoroughly in preparation for our visit to the United Nations. Develop a substantive list of questions and topics you want to discuss during our guided tour and lecture at the UN. Hand your questions and talking points in to me after our visit to the UN (10%).

-Make a movie. You can do this by yourself or in a team of up to 4 students. Come up with a topic that interests you. In the footsteps of the Habsburgs? Vienna's wine gardens? The death cult in Vienna? Architecture? Jewish history? Catholicism? Saints' relics? Coffee houses? Food? Mozart? The Ringstraße? Klimt? Immigrant neighborhoods? Public transport in Vienna? Trips to Budapest, Bratislava or Prague? Gay bars in Vienna? Lippizaner horses? In the footsteps of ancient Romans? Bike trip along the Danube? Come up with your own topic. You can make a film about any aspect of your experience in Vienna. The possibilities are limitless. Use the video function on your digital camera. You can also edit in movie clips, sound files, images, or Powerpoint slides. Add audio, ie. your narration, music, etc. Have fun with this assignment. Check out an example [here](#): (20%)

-Sign up to receive daily emails for the [German word of the day](#) at Listen to the audioclip. On the requested dates in the syllabus, note the word in your journal.





IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

-Extra Credit: Sign up for a free online German course. Go the “Sprechen Sie Deutsch?” section on the class webpage for some online options. I will give extra credit according to how much you manage to say to me in German. If you really impress me, you’ll also get “Torte”!
-If at all possible, bring a laptop! This is not a requirement, but highly desirable.

Class Schedule: (tentative, subject to change, stuff happens!)

Thurs. Aug 1 Arrival & Check-in

Fri. Aug 2 Orientation & Walking Tour
For journal: what is the German word of the day? Kudos if you can make a sentence with it! How long can you stay awake?

Read Parsons, xv-26, 91-113; Beller, 1-35.

Sat. Aug 3 City Tour
2 pm: city tour by bus and on foot.
5 pm: visit to Heurigen.

Sun Aug 4 Heeresgeschichtliche Museum
12 pm tour

Mon Aug 5 Formation of Habsburg Monarchy
Read Beller, pp. 1-35; Parsons, pp. 91-130; Spielman, Chap 3 (W); Habsburger.net “Reigns and Rulers I-III”, “Birth of a dynasty”, “Tu felix Austria nube.”
Good time to “get lost” in Vienna. Or, check out the [Peterskirche](#). The Peterskirche today is a center of *Opus Dei* in Vienna (Remember Don Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*?). Find, photograph, and comment on the saints’ relics in this church in your blog.



1. Reformation and Counter-Reformation, Origins of Confessional Absolutism

Tues. Aug 6 More Habsburg Monarchy
Read Parsons, 131-148; Beller 37-65; Habsburger.net “Reigns and Rulers IV”, “The Land of Monasteries”, “Reformation and Counter-Reformation.”

2 pm [Stephansdom](#): With your ticket you can visit the catacombs on another day. They contain the skeletons of several thousand victims of the last Viennese plague in the eighteenth century as well as the entrails of the Habsburgs.

Wed. Aug 7 Protestant Reformation & Catholic Counter-Reformation
Read Habsburger.net “Holy Business”, “Pietas Austriaca”, “Baroque splendor...”, “Reigns and Rulers V”.
2 pm [Kunsthistorische Museum](#)



2. The Baroque Monarchy

Thurs. Aug. 8 Ottoman Siege
 Read Parsons, 69-78 & 149-172; Beller, 66-83;
<http://www.habsburger.net/en> “Habsburg against Turkey and France”, “Reigns and Rulers V”, “The Hofburg”, “Habsburgs in Sound and Image”, “Good, Better, Habsburg,” “With Pomp and Splendour.” What is the German word of the day?

[8pm Karlskirche Vivaldi](#)

Fri. Aug 9 Absolutism
 Read Beller, 85-104; Parsons, 173-189;
<http://www.habsburger.net/en>
 “The Hofburg”, “Habsburgs in Sound and Image”, “Good, Better, Habsburg,” “With Pomp and Splendour,” “Reigns and Rulers VI”, “Schönbrunn”, “Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart...”, “Social Change in the Enlightenment.”

On your own: Visit the [Heeresgeschichtliche Museum](#). “War against the Turks”. Analyze the portrayals of Turks

and Christians. Visit the section on the Thirty-Years-War as well. Read the handouts available at the museum. Visit the [Schatzkammer](#) (Imperial Treasury) at the Hofburg, and the [Kaisergruft](#) (aka Kapuzinergruft). Discuss all this in your blog, and also describe the pomp and grandiose excess of the absolute monarchy. What was the purpose of such ceremonial? Draw on the assigned readings to help you understand what you are seeing in your on-site explorations. Also discuss: what is absolutism? What is the Baroque? What did you learn about political ceremonial associated with the Holy Roman Empire? And, what’s up with Habsburg mortuary ritual—why did they take out the heart and guts??

Optional Visit [Schönbrunn Palace](#) and/or the Baroque collection at the [Lower Bevedere](#)

[Sat Aug 10 Free](#)

[Sun Aug 11 Free](#)

3. Road Trip

Mon. Aug. 12 Eisenstadt
 Read Melton (W) and on the [Jewish ghetto](#)
 Research the Esterhazy family and Haydn on the web.
 Listen to some music by Haydn.

Tues. Aug 13 [Raxalpe](#)

Wed Aug 14 Laxenburg

Thurs. Aug 15 12:30 [Belvedere](#)

Fri. Aug 16-Sun. Aug 18 Long Weekend

Mon. Aug 19 [Klosterneuburg](#) excursion, 2 pm.
 Read this brief [history of the monastery](#), and [“The Escorial.”](#)



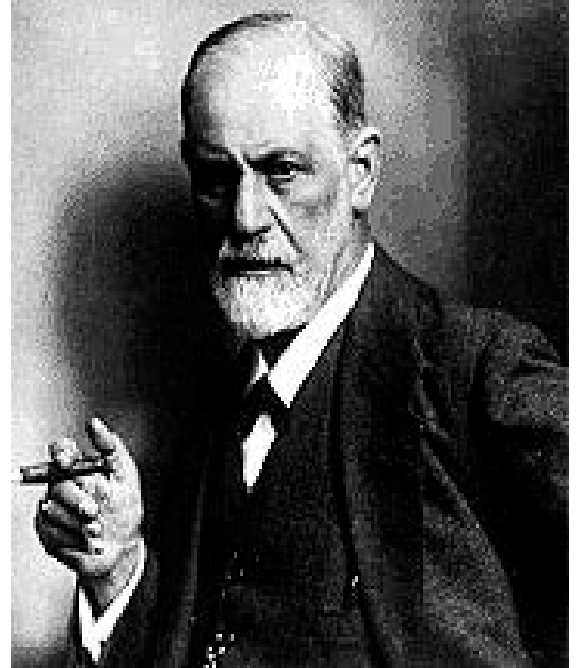
4. Nineteenth-Century Vienna

Tues. Aug. 20 Revolution, Reaction, Gründerzeit

Read Beller, 104-177; Parsons, 191-216. Habsburger.net “The Monarchy in Upheaval”, “Unification of Europe...”, “Reorganizing the City”, “Reigns and Rulers VII”, “Putting Central Europe in Order”, “Battle for a Political Voice”. On your own: Find something Biedermeier, both buildings and artifacts. Photograph, describe, explain, critique.

Take the tram around the Ringstraße several times with your city map in hand. Identify the buildings. How is the function of the buildings related to their architecture? Do you like Ringstraße architecture?

2 pm Leopold Museum



5. Fin-de-Siècle Vienna

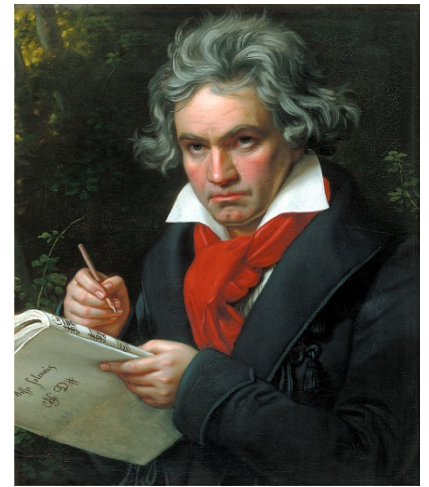
Wed. Aug 21 Modernity, WWI & Fall of Habsburg Dynasty

Beller, 177-195; Parsons, 217-236 ; “Vienna Modernism” (W). Habsburger.net « The Production of Progress », « The Ringstrasse », « Architectural Splendour », Habsburger.net “War and Peace”, “Elizabeth...”, “Decline and Fall”

Listen to some Arnold Schoenberg. Do you like it? Why, or why not?

Why did artists associated with the Vienna Secession dislike Ringstraße architecture? How would you define modernism and modernity? Find some *Jugendstil* buildings and artifacts. Photograph, describe, explain, critique. Do you like Klimt?

What is the German word of the day?





6. Hitler's Vienna and WW II

Thurs. Aug 22 Interwar Years, Hitler's Vienna & WWII
Beller, 197-247; Parsons, 237-256, Klüger
Visit the Jüdisches Museum (Palais Elkeles)

<http://www.jmw.at/en>

Before we go to Mauthausen complete Klüger, and see the online viewing assignment: Mauthausen Liberation (historical footage, US Department of Justice) at www.nizkor.org/hweb/camps/mauthausen/Mauthausen-00.html

Optional: Sigmund Freud Museum.

http://www.freud-museum.at/cms/index.php/en_home.html

-What is the German word of the day?

Fri.. Aug 23 – Aug 25 Free long weekend

Mon. Aug 26 [Mauthausen Concentration Camp](#)

Tues. Aug 27 [United Nations, IAEA & UNODC](#)

Be at UN main entrance (Checkpoint 1) at 9:30. Review New York Times email alerts on the Vienna UN, the IAEA, and the UNODC. ** Bring your passport!**
Beller, 249-317; Parsons, 257-261.

What is the German word of the day?

7. The Cold War and Beyond

Wed. Aug 28 Mauthausen Debrief
Discussion of Klüger

Thurs. Aug 29 Free day

Fri. Aug. 30 Good Bye dinner

Sat. Aug 31 Move out by 9 am (better yet: by 8:45 am)

Sites and museums that you must visit: (We are visiting some as a group. The others you must visit on your own.) Be sure to discuss them in your journal. Many museums are closed on Mondays. Some museums have reduced or free admission on certain days. Be sure to check your guidebook and/or websites for opening times and admission prices.

[Stephansdom](#)

[Klosterneuburg Abbey](#)



[Peterskirche](#)

[Schatzkammer](#) (Imperial Treasury)

[Kunsthistorisches Museum](#)

[Schönbrunn Palace](#)

[Bevedere Palace](#)

[Karlskirche](#)

[Kaisergruft](#) (aka Kapuzinergruft):

[Heeresgeschichtliche Museum](#)

[Jewish Museum](#) (Dorotheengasse & Judenplatz)

[United Nations Vienna](#)

Film: [“The Third Man”](#)



An American in Vienna: How to keep a research journal

Keeping a daily journal will enrich your experience abroad. Start now, before you leave. Spend time on the class website, and check out the links provided there. Also, read your guide books on Vienna, and make a list of places you want to visit and things you want to do. Do the assigned reading before you leave, take notes and write down questions you would like to discuss in class. This journal is where you make sense of and digest what you see around you in Vienna and where you place your experiences in a historical and cultural context, by drawing on assigned readings and class lectures. Discuss your visits to specific required and optional museums and other sites. Be sure to rent the audio-guides at the museums. They are very helpful. You won't understand half of what you are seeing without them. In your blog: Don't just say: "Today we went to the Jewish Museum." Describe and explain what you see there. What does it mean? The blog is also where you show me that you have read and understood the assigned readings.

I also want you to write about present day Vienna and your experiences there. Try to meet some Viennese and talk to them about their life. Talk to them about politics. Do they see the world differently than you? What do you think about public transport in Vienna? How does it compare to public transport in the US? What do you think about the counter-culture around the Karlsplatz? What can you observe about ethnic and race relations in Austria? What sports are popular there? How do you like Austrian TV?



Do people relate to their dogs differently than people do in the US? Keep your eyes, ears and minds open and record your impressions, and cultural observations in your journal.

Specific questions to address in your journal (in addition to the questions I posed above):

*You will have TVs in your dorm in Vienna. You will be able to watch CNN International. Before you leave for this trip, spend an hour or two watching CNN here in California. In Vienna, spend an hour or two watching CNN International. In your journal, compare and contrast what topics are discussed and how they are presented in CNN designed for American audiences, vs. CNN International.

*Get lost in Vienna. Ride the Tram from our dorm to the center. Change Trams randomly and allow them to take you to neighborhoods far from the tourist center. Get off the Tram when you see something interesting, look around; eat, drink, and shop where the locals do, then get back on and let the streetcar take you to the next mystery neighborhood. Do this for at least two hours. Take pictures, write it up.

*Compare and contrast the system of public transport and the state of infrastructure in Vienna and Austria with infrastructure in California and the US. How much does gasoline cost in Austria?

*Visit the Kunsthistorisches Museum on your own. Find 2-3 works that exemplify Catholic sensibility, and 2-3 works that exemplify Protestant sensibility, and discuss them in detail in your journal. If possible, take photos or buy postcards.

*Find where the various body parts (entrails, hearts...) of deceased Habsburgs are located. Explain this mortuary ritual. Examine the tombs. How do they change over time? Take photographs, buy postcards, and describe and explain what you see. In general, what was the purpose of the elaborate ritual surrounding the Habsburg monarchy? In this context, discuss what you see in the Schatzkammer as well. Write this up in your journal.

*Treasure Hunt assignment: In addition to funeral monuments, how many other representations of the Habsburgs can you find (painting, statues, or any other media). Take photos, identify, describe, and explain in your journal.



*What is baroque? Find examples in art and architecture. Photograph, describe, and explain.

*What is Biedermeier? Find something Biedermeier (in the Wien Museum, or elsewhere). Photograph, describe, and explain in your journal.

*Take trams around the Ringstraße several times. Examine the architecture. Locate and photograph some Jugendstil architecture (hint: not necessarily on the Ringstraße.) What is Jugendstil?

*Listen to some Schönberg. Do you like it or not? Why, or why not?

*Include the list of questions you compiled in preparation for our visit to the UN. To what extent were your questions answered during our visit?

*Spend some time blogging about the paper topic you did NOT choose to write on.

*Optional treasure hunt competition: How many saints' relics can you find in and around Vienna (as well as on your weekend trips)? The winner takes the cake (literally)!

Be sure to discuss all of the required museums, churches, etc. Contextualize and explain what you see in Vienna by drawing substantively on assigned readings, class lectures, and relevant websites. Include your social, cultural, anthropological observations of present day Vienna. If you go out of town, write about the places you visit. What did you see? How does it compare to Vienna? Be sure to discuss the NYT email alerts about Vienna, the UN, and the IAEA. Include the list of questions and topics you wrote up in preparation for our visit to the UN. What did you think of our visit? Keep your journal as a blog. Keep reediting and reorganizing as you go along. At the conclusion of the program (or earlier, if you like), your blogs will be linked to the class website, so that I and your fellow students can read them. Your journal can include photographs, links, films, audio clips, scans of postcards, clippings, etc.—whatever you find useful to illustrate your narrative. Be creative as well as intellectually substantive.

