The course introduces texts from Austrian and German writers at the turn of the 19th century (poetry, drama, and short narratives by Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Arthur Schnitzler, Stefan Zweig, and Frank Wedekind). In addition to introducing you to the literature of a certain time period and specific cultural context, the goal is to sharpen your sensibilities as readers by calling attention to formal aspects of literature, such as narrative perspective, imagery, and language. All the readings focus on a theme that is of central concern to the literary movement of young Vienna: Love and Death.