

# SALZBURG SEMINAR IN AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

SPONSORED BY THE HARVARD STUDENT COUNCIL  
IN COOPERATION WITH  
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICE, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, AND  
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SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

The Salzburg Seminar in American Studies transfers the methods and opportunities of an American Graduate School to Europe to help remedy the acute shortage of qualified European teachers in the various fields of American Civilization, and to encourage independent European scholarship in the American field. It provides an opportunity in post-war Europe for a meeting of scholars and students from various countries in a common project of free investigation and discussion.

An outstanding American faculty offers lecture courses and seminars in American literature, history, sociology, government, economics, philosophy, music, and arts to 100 carefully selected teachers and advanced students from all parts of Europe. The program is planned to provide both a general introduction to American Civilization, and an opportunity for advanced work in each student's field of special interest. All courses and seminars, as well as complementary discussion groups and tutorial sessions, are conducted in English. A small study library has been transported from the United States to Salzburg.

The Salzburg Seminar was conceived by Harvard students, and has been organized and administered by the Harvard Student Council in cooperation with International Student Service, of Geneva. Faculty and administrative staff volunteer their services. No tuition is charged, and room and board, and in many cases transportation, are provided free to European members. The expenses of the Seminar are met by contributions from private sources and foundations, solicited by the Harvard Student Council.

The first session of the Salzburg Seminar was held from July 15 to August 31, 1947, at Castle Leopoldskron, near Salzburg. It was attended by 97 students from 18 different countries, including a contingent of displaced persons. National antagonisms left by the war were conciliated, and an initial suspicion of the intent of the American organizers gave way as European members recognized that the purpose of the Seminar was not to propagandize, and its concern purely academic.

During six weeks of intensive study and discussion, full use was made of the educational opportunities provided by the Seminar, and a genuine interest in American studies stimulated among the European members. At the end, students and faculty agreed that the Seminar had realized its educational objectives; it had promoted a valuable exchange of ideas among Europeans of all nationalities, and promised a genuine addition to the resources of European higher education. Observers judged it a pilot experiment in international education, and expressed the hope that the Salzburg Seminar might be continued as a permanent center of American studies in Europe.

## FACULTY AND COURSES

The following is a list of the faculty of the 1947 Seminar, and of the lecture courses and seminars they conducted.

F. O. Matthiessen (Harvard)

Lectures on "Topics in American Literature: Emerson, Hawthorne, Melville, James, Mark Twain, Dreiser, Eliot"

Seminar in "Topics in American Literature"

Alfred Kazin

Lectures on "Topics in American Literature: Thoreau, Whitman, Melville, Henry Adams, Hemingway, Dos Passos, Cummings"

Seminar in "Topics in American Literature"

Vida Ginsberg (New School of Social Research)

Seminar in "The American Drama"

Richard Schlatter (Rutgers)

Lectures on "American Historiography"

Seminar in "Problems in American History"

Elsbeth Davies (Sarah Lawrence)

Lectures on "United States Foreign Policy"

Seminar in "United States Foreign Policy"

Benjamin Wright (Harvard)

Lectures on "Theory of American Government"

Seminar in "Theory of American Government"

Neil McDonald (New Jersey College for Women)

Lectures on "Praxis of American Government"

Seminar in "Government in the United States"

Wassily Leontief (Harvard)

Lectures on "Economic Structure of the United States"

Seminar in "Problems in Economic Theory"

Walt Rostow (Oxford)

Lectures on "Economic Influences on American Policy"

Margaret Mead (American Museum of Natural History)

Lectures on "Social Structure of the United States"

Seminar in "Methods of Sociology"

Lyman Bryson (Columbia)

Lectures on "Media of Mass Communication"

Seminar in "Mass Communication"

Assisting the faculty were American graduate students specializing in the different fields of study: Jacob Levenson (Harvard), Mark Linenthal (Harvard), Jeremy Blanchet (Princeton),

Kenneth Lynn (Harvard), George Ritter (Yale), Carl Kaysen (Harvard), and James Lorie (Chicago).

The following special lectures were offered:

Mario Praz (University of Rome)

3 lectures on Poe, Hemingway, and Eliot

Gaetano Salvemini (Harvard)

2 lectures on "European Reconstruction"

James Sweeney (formerly Director of the Museum of Modern Art,  
New York)

4 lectures on "Painting and Architecture in the United States"

A. N. J. Den Hollander (Amsterdam)

2 lectures on "Social Problems of the South"

Frank Thistlethwaite (Cambridge)

1 lecture on "British-American Relations"

The faculty of the 1948 Seminar, which is to be substantially different, will again be chosen with care to provide leading American educators.

#### STUDENT SELECTION

Students invited to the Salzburg Seminar are selected on the basis of past scholarly achievement, with no regard to political, religious, or racial considerations. Preference is given to those who teach, who have entered public life, or who intend to do so. A good knowledge of English is required, and all candidates must have an outstanding record in a field closely related to at least one of the subjects offered at the Seminar.

Application for attendance is made either through the various national officers of International Student Service or directly to the Harvard Student Council. The final selection of the European members is made after personal interviews with the candidates by a representative of the Seminar, who will tour Europe early this spring.

The 1947 Seminar included representatives of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, and Sweden, as well as two representatives of Republican Spain and seven displaced persons.

### CASTLE LEOPOLDSKRON

The Castle Leopoldskron, within 20 minutes' walking distance of the center of Salzburg, lies in beautiful country a mile south of the Moenchsberg, surrounded by parks and gardens and facing a small lake. It was built in the spacious style of the late baroque by Archbishop Firmian, towards the middle of the eighteenth century. The 89 rooms within the rectangular three-story building and its dependance include two lecture halls, a library, dormitories for from six to ten persons, a larger dormitory for 30 persons, and individual rooms for faculty members and married couples.

The castle had been nearly hit during an aerial bombardment of Salzburg, and necessary repairs had to be made before last year's opening. Plans are already drawn for the conversion of the service building into additional dormitories, in case the Seminar should become a permanent institution.

### ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Salzburg Seminar is administered by Harvard undergraduate and graduate students under the authority of the Harvard Student Council. Policy decisions are in the hands of a faculty-student Executive Committee.

The Seminar enjoys the banking services of International Student Service in Geneva, and of its agent, World Student Service Fund, in New York. By affiliation with the International Committee of the YMCA, the World Student Service Fund is a depositor in the Chase National Bank of New York. The International Committee of the YMCA has extended its auditing services.

All funds are derived from the contributions of individuals and foundations. The entire expense of the 1947 Seminar did not exceed \$25,000.00; the budget for 1948 has been estimated at \$30,000.00 in order to increase the transportation allowances of faculty and members, to augment the library maintained at Leopoldskron, and to provide for fluctuations in the European exchange.

Donors make subscriptions payable to the World Student Service Fund, a charity recognized for tax deduction; and address them to the Salzburg Seminar at its Cambridge address.

### COMMENTS ON THE 1947 SEMINAR

The following extracts are from letters and published accounts written by some of those who were present at the 1947 session as members or visitors.

Laurence Duggan, Director of the Institute of International Education:

"It is evident that your idea of giving European students an insight into our American culture and contemporary problems opened an entirely new field to students who have been unable to learn about us without coming to this country. The success of this first venture should enable you to continue the Seminar and perhaps to expand your efforts to other centers as well."

Samuel H. Williams, Chief of the Education Division, Headquarters, United States Forces in Austria:

"It is our belief that the achievements of the Student Council Seminar were valuable enough to warrant its continuance and we hope that Harvard will appreciate the splendid contribution of the Student Council to the solution of problems which confront this troubled world . . . It is a pleasure for us to submit a most favorable report to General Keyes and the State Department."

Lyman Bryson, Publicity Director of CBS:

"These young people were brought together to talk and to study together, and the whole enterprise was admirable, because the young Americans who dreamed about it, and worked very hard to make it happen, were not just writing essays about international difficulties and international understanding; they were doing something about it. . . They maintained in that beautiful, but strange and old-fashioned atmosphere, a spirit of American freedom that was a lesson in essential democracy to the Europeans. They made a gesture of friendship that may have great results."

Uj Magyarorszag, Hungarian weekly on world politics and intellectual life:

"There wasn't even a shadow of propaganda in Salzburg. In this excellent atmosphere all the problems of an intellectual cooperation between the United States and Europe came to the fore with no regard for political prejudices."

F. C. Matthiessen, Faculty Lecturer in Literature:

"It was the greatest teaching experience I have ever had, or ever hope to have."

Ann Bradshaw, member of the Seminar from England:

"Almost every day I came into contact with problems of research and investigation that I felt I would like to work on in much greater detail than was possible at the Seminar, and the background of outline facts and advice as to books and authorities of all kinds that I acquired there will enable me, I hope, to continue these studies now that I have returned home."

Vittori Gabrieli, member of the Seminar from Italy:

"Something of the celebrated hopefulness associated with the notion of America, a new hope and confidence in ourselves, was surely infused in all of us by living in daily touch with you and the other members of the Seminar."

Anni Holme, member of the Seminar from Finland:

"I do hope that the organizers of the Seminar have shared some of the happiness and content we European members felt at Leopoldskron, and that you think your enterprise was worthwhile. It was an honest invitation to the young academic class of Europe to work together on the basis of mutual good will, understanding, and respect."

Margaret Mead, Faculty Lecturer in Sociology:

"(The European participants) all learned something more of the complexity of American culture, and I think most of them learned, as counterpoint to an increasing sense of what American civilization was, that there was something which might be called European civilization, which was not merely an aggregate of national cultures, but an old shared tradition . . . In listening to the way in which Americans participated in discussions, many of them experienced, probably for the first time, the particular quality of a democratic tradition which valued the existence of differences of opinion."

C. Fessia, member of the Seminar from Italy:

"My field is literature, and the very fact of having the opportunity of listening to Mr. Matthiessen's and Mr. Kazin's lectures and of taking part in their seminars was in itself the very best thing I could wish for . . . I only hope that future students will understand its meaning and enjoy it as deeply as I did."

SALZBURG SEMINAR: BUDGET FOR 1948

Castle Rental and Maintenance . . . . . \$ 3,000.00

\$1,500 less than 1947 figure. Most necessary repairs and installments in the bombed castle have been finished. Owners agree to use the surplus above current expenses for further improvements according to Seminar's instructions.

Wages to Castle Staff . . . . . \$ 1,500.00

Food . . . . . \$ 7,500.00

Two foregoing figures based on 1947 accounts.

Transportation to Salzburg and back for Americans . \$ 9,000.00

Items:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Round trip tourist class "America" for 9 faculty members            | \$2,970 |
| Round trip troopships for 9 faculty assistants and 5 administrators | \$3,640 |
| Round trip Cherbourg-Salzburg for above 23                          | \$1,610 |
| Travel incidentals  | \$ 780  |
|   | \$9,000 |

Transportation for European Students. . . . . . \$ 2,000.00

Exchange difficulties will again make it impossible for most Europeans to pay for travel.

Books for the Seminar . . . . . \$ 2,000.00

This figure represents a bare minimum. It is hoped that it can be enlarged by grants from a foundation and gifts from publishers.

Student Selection . . . . . \$ 1,000.00

Includes travel in Europe by Seminar representative for personal interviews with candidates.

Administration . . . . . \$ 2,000.00

Office expenditures and travel connected with preparation of Seminar and fund-raising.

Contingencies . . . . . \$ 2,000.00

This figure is kept large to provide for unexpected exchange fluctuations.

TOTAL BUDGET FOR 1948 . . . . . \$ 30,000.00