

Prague as a Living History

Lecturers: Ondřej Skripnik (ondrej.skripnik@fhs.cuni.cz)
Pavel Soukup (soukup@flu.cas.cz)
Věra Soukupová (veramarie.vejrychova@gmail.com)

Office Hours: upon request

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

This course, consisting mostly of excursions, will introduce students to the history of the Czech Republic and of its capital Prague while also showing the development of its urban structure and main social functions. On this single—and beautiful—example students should gain a deeper understanding of the particularities and intricacies of urban life as it evolved through the centuries. After an introductory lecture in the classroom, most of the time shall be spent walking through the town, visiting historical sites, churches, museums and galleries, as well as other places of interest. Students should gain an ability to look at historical buildings and art objects, to discern their style, age and provenience as well as to connect them with the historical and contemporary social functions. Other excursions will be devoted to interesting places, showing recent and contemporary life-style of Prague inhabitants, including social periphery.

BASIC READING:

Petr ČORNEJ, Great Stories in Czech History, Praha 2005, pp. 1-143. Václav CÍLEK, Prague Between History and Dreams, Bloomington 2004, pp. 3-53.

Please read early in the semester!

Further reading:

Hugh AGNEW, The Czechs and the Lands of Bohemian Crown, Stanford 2004, pp. 1-101.

GRADING POLICY:

40% - tests; 30% - essay; 20% - presentation; 10% - class participation

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A	93-100	Outstanding work
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Good work
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course

UPCES Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy

The UPCES program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristic, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

UPCES Diversity Policy

UPCES fully embraces diversity and strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds. Prague is a wonderfully diverse community and UPCES is no different. All students should feel at home while studying abroad and UPCES will do its utmost to make sure that becomes a reality. Although unique challenges may arise, we believe that students from all walks of life will encounter wonderful opportunities for enrichment as they explore a new culture while studying abroad.

WEEKLY PROGRAM:

WEEK 1

UPCES Orientation Lecture Series

WEEK 2

How Statues Speak: Charles Bridge and Beyond

Reading:

Václav CÍLEK, Prague Between History and Dreams, Bloomington 2004, pp. 3-8, 32-33.
Alena JEŽKOVÁ, Saint John of Nepomuk, in: Czech Heaven, Prague 2012, pp. 59-67.

WEEK 3

The Castle: Power and defense, security and luxury

Reading:

Petr ČORNEJ, Great Stories in Czech History, Praha 2005, pp. 16-24.
Zdeněk LUKEŠ, "Transformation of Prague Castle: From a Feudal Residence to the Headquarters of a Democratic State", in: The Story of Prague Castle, Prague 2003, pp. 446-57

Presentations:

St Vitus' Cathedral (Katedrála sv. Víta)
Queen Anne's Summerhouse – Belvedere (Letohrádek královny Anny)
Old Royal Palace [from outside] (Starý královský palác)

WEEK 4

Vyšehrad Castle: Legends and memory

Reading:

Petr ČORNEJ, Great Stories in Czech History, Praha 2005, pp. 7-15.
Cosmas of Prague, The Chronicle of the Czechs, transl. Lisa Wolverton, Washington 2009, pp. 38-52.

Presentations:

Church of St. Peter and Paul (Chrám sv. Petra a Pavla)
Vyšehrad Cemetery (Vyšehradský hřbitov, Slavín)

WEEK 5

Medieval Town of Prague: Prosperity and revolution

Reading:

Václav CÍLEK, Prague Between History and Dreams, Bloomington 2004, pp. 52-53.
Lewis MUMFORD, "The Monastery and the Clock," in: The City Cultures Reader, ed. M. Miles, T. Hall, I. Borden, London – New York 2000, pp. 120-124. 3. Petr ČORNEJ, Great Stories in Czech History, Praha 2005, pp. 44-52.

Presentations:

Bethlehem Chapel (Betlémská kaple)
The Astronomical Clock at the Old Town Hall (Staroměstský orloj) • The Týn Yard (Ungelt) and the Church of our Lady (Týnský chrám)

WEEK 6

Prague as Heavenly Jerusalem: The New Town of Charles IV

Reading:

Paul CROSSLEY – Zoë OPAČIĆ, “Prague as a New Capital,” in: Prague: The Crown of Bohemia, 1347-1437, eds. Barbara Drake Boehm and Jiří Fajt, New York 2005, pp. 59-66.

Autobiography of Emperor Charles IV, ed. Balász NAGY, Frank SCHAER, Paul W. KNOLL, Budapest 2001, pp. 43-47, 59-71.

Presentations:

The Church of St Charlemagne (Karlovy)

The Slavonic Monastery Emmaus (Klášter Na Slovanech, Emauzy)

WEEK 7

Midterm – Required reading: Petr ČORNEJ, Great Stories in Czech History, Praha 2005, pp. 1-143.

+ The City Made of Paper: Municipal Museum and Langweil’s Model of Prague

WEEK 8

Baroque Devotion in the Landscape: Loreto and the Infant Jesus

Reading:

Petr ČORNEJ, Great Stories in Czech History, Praha 2005, pp. 71-88.

Josef PETRÁŇ, “Baroque Culture and Society in Bohemia,” in: The Glory of the Baroque in Bohemia, ed. Vít Vlnas, Prague 2001, pp. 61-77.

Presentations:

Church of Our Lady Victorious (Pražské Jezulátko)

The Loreto (Loreta)

WEEK 9

Expanding the City: Vinohrady Hundred Years Ago

Reading:

Petr ČORNEJ, Great Stories in Czech History, Praha 2005, pp. 98-106.

Jaroslav HAŠEK, The good soldier Švejk and his fortunes in the World War, transl. Cecil Parrott, London 1974, pp. 3-23.

Presentations:

The “Art Nouveau” in Prague

St Wenceslas’ Church in Vršovice (Kostel sv. Václava)

WEEK 10

Prefab Housing: Prague’s suburbs in the era of “Real Socialism”

Reading:

Petr ČORNEJ, Great Stories in Czech History, Praha 2005, pp. 125-133.

Kimberly Elman ZARECOR, “Socialist Neighborhoods after Socialism: The Past, Present, and Future of Postwar Housing in the Czech Republic,” East European Politics and Societies 26 (2012), pp. 486-495.

Presentations:

Palace of Culture (now Prague Congress Centre); Prague Metro

WEEK 11

Modern Architecture: from "Art Nouveau" to the Dancing House

Reading:

Derek SAYER, *The Coasts of Bohemia*, Princeton 1998, pp. 195-202 (chapter "Modernism and Modernities: The International Style").

Dancing Building, ed. Irena Fialová, Prague: Zlatý řez 2003 (parts). 3. Zlatý Anděl. Jean Nouvel in Prague, ed. Irena Fialová, Prague: Zlatý řez 2000 (parts).

Presentations:

The old and the new building of the National Theatre (Národní divadlo, Nová scéna)

The Dancing House (Tančící dům)

WEEK 12

Prague's Present and Future (classroom presentation) Karlín: Transformation of a Neighborhood Reading: Prague Institute of Planning and Development. Basic information, Prague: IPR, 2015

WEEK 13

Final Test, Evaluation, Closing Discussion

GUIDELINES:

Required reading

For each walking tour, please read the texts listed above. It is also useful to go through the reading recommended for the given period (see below), especially for those presenting papers.

On-site presentation

length: ca. 5 minutes

address especially following questions:

- When was the monument (historical building, church etc.) built?
- To which architectural style does it belong?
- What other events in its history are worth mentioning?
- What do you personally find interesting about the site? - It is recommended to visit the site in advance. - Preference is given to speaking, not reading the presentation.
- NB. Please e-mail your notes or the outline of your paper to the respective professor in advance.

Midterm test (WEEK 7)

- tests students' orientation in pre-modern Central-European/Czech history gained from Petr ČORNEJ, *Great Stories in Czech History*, Praha 2005, pp. 1-143
- includes questions concerning the readings assigned for classes held so far

Final Test (WEEK 13)

- a combined multiple choice / short answers test focusing on Czech/Prague history and architectural styles; the test sheet contains images
- to prepare for the test, please review the required readings and the PowerPoint presentation of styles & chronology

Final essay (due WEEK 13)

- choose a chapter/article from “Recommended reading” (below) dealing with a period that appealed to you
- summarize and comment the reading and explain what you find interesting about the period/event/style/site etc.; try to find connections to what you were able to see in Prague with your own eyes
- search for other Prague buildings and historical sites from the same period, that we did not visit on walking tours; take pictures of those sites (whole and/or detail), include those pictures in your essay and comment on them extensively
- indicate all used sources in footnotes or in the bibliography - length: ca. 1200 words / 6 images; form: electronic (e.g. pdf, doc)
- NB. Please upload the essay to the e-learning website or e-mail it to the respective professor by the end of the Final Exam Week at the latest.

RECOMMENDED READING:

Early Origins: Mythology and Romanesque Art

- Peter DEMETZ, “Libussa, or Versions of Origin,” in: Prague in Black and Gold: The history of a city, Penguin Books, 1998, pp. 3-5, 16-29
- COSMAS OF PRAGUE, The Chronicle of the Czechs, transl. Lisa WOLVERTON, Washington 2009, pp. 38-52

Middle Ages I: Gothic Prague and Charles IV

- Paul CROSSLEY – Zoë OPAČIĆ, “Prague as a New Capital,” in: Prague: The Crown of Bohemia, 1347-1437, eds. Barbara Drake Boehm and Jiří Fajt, New York – New Haven – London 2005, p. 59-73.
- Lewis MUMFORD, “Protection and the Medieval Town,” in: idem, The Culture of Cities, Westport 1970, pp. 13-17, 27-35, 51-58
- Lewis MUMFORD, “The Monastery and the Clock,” in: The City Cultures Reader, ed. M. Miles, T. Hall, I. Borden, London – New York 2000, pp. 120-124

Middle Ages II: Hussites and Early Reformation in Prague

- František ŠMAHEL, “The Hussite movement: an anomaly of European history?,” in: Bohemia in History, ed. Mikuláš Teich, Cambridge University Press 1998, pp. 79-97.

Trans-Alpine Renaissance and Rudolf II

- R. J. W. EVANS, “Prague Mannerism and the Magic Universe,” in: idem, Rudolf II and His World. A study in intellectual history, 1576-1612, Oxford 1973 pp. 243-274

Counter-Reformation and Baroque Culture

- Josef PETRÁŇ, “Baroque Culture and Society in Bohemia,” in: The Glory of the Baroque in Bohemia. Essays on art, culture and society in the 17th and 18th centuries, ed. Vít Vlnas, Prague: National Gallery 2001, pp. 61-77.
- Robert BIRELEY, Refashioning of Catholicism, 1450–1700, New York 1999, pp. 107-120

National Revival and Nineteenth-century Historicism

- Vladimír MACURA, “Problems and paradoxes of the national revival,” in: Bohemia in History, ed. Mikuláš Teich, Cambridge University Press 1998, pp. 182-197.
- Otto URBAN, “Czech society 1848-1918,” in: Bohemia in History, ed. Mikuláš Teich, Cambridge University Press 1998, pp. 198-214.
- Garry B. COHEN, The Politics of Ethnic Survival: Germans in Prague, 1861-1914, Princeton, NJ 1981 (Introduction; Conclusion: Ethnic Identity, Group Solidarity, and Historical Change, p. 3-18, 274-282)
- Derek SAYER, The Coasts of Bohemia, Princeton 1998, pp. 141-147 (chapter “A Discovery in Dvůr Králové”), pp. 176-184 (chapter “The Completion of Saint Vitus’s”), pp. 98-107 (chapter “Little Golden Chapel on the Vltava”)

Modern Styles (Art Nouveau, Cubism, Functionalism)

- Derek SAYER, *The Coasts of Bohemia*, Princeton 1998, pp. 195-208 (chapter “Modernism and Modernities. International Style”)
- Otto URBAN, “Czech society 1848-1918,” in: *Bohemia in History*, ed. Mikuláš Teich, Cambridge University Press 1998, pp. 198-214.
- Garry B. COHEN, *The Politics of Ethnic Survival: Germans in Prague, 1861-1914*, Princeton, NJ 1981 (Introduction; Conclusion: Ethnic Identity, Group Solidarity, and Historical Change, p. 3-18, 274-282)
- Thomas ORT, “Prague 1911: The Cubist City,” in: *Idem, Art and Life in Modernist Prague: Karel Capek and His Generation, 1911-1938*, New York 2013, pp. 31-59.
- Zdeněk LUKEŠ, “Transformation of Prague Castle: From a Feudal Residence to the Headquarters of a Democratic State”, in: *The Story of Prague Castle*, Prague 2003, pp. 446-57

Socialist Architecture

- Peter LIZON, “East Central Europe: The Unhappy Heritage of Communist Mass Housing,” *Journal of Architectural Education* 50 (1996), pp. 104-114.
- Kimberly Elman ZARECOR, “Socialist Neighborhoods after Socialism: The Past, Present, and Future of Postwar Housing in the Czech Republic,” *East European Politics and Societies* 26 (2012), pp. 486-495.
- Hugh AGNEW, *The Czechs and the Lands of Bohemian Crown*, Stanford 2004, pp. 261-292.

Contemporary Architecture and Urban Planning

- Zlatý Anděl. *Jean Nouvel in Prague*, ed. Irena FIALOVÁ, Prague: Zlatý řez 2000 + *Dancing Building*, ed. Irena FIALOVÁ, Prague: Zlatý řez 2003 (selected parts)
- Kateřina HYNKOVÁ – Helena KYNCLOVÁ – Eliška KYZLÍKOVÁ, *Do You Know Prague? The City in Maps, Graphs and Figures*, Prague: IPR, 2015.
- Pavla MELKOVÁ et al., *Prague Public Space Design: Manual. Prague Public Space Development: Strategy*, Prague: IPR, 2014.
- Hugh AGNEW, *The Czechs and the Lands of Bohemian Crown*, Stanford 2004, pp. 284-331.

FURTHER READING:

- Tomáš RYGL, *Prague. Detailed Picture Guide*, Praha: ATP 2007, 154 p.
- Hugh AGNEW, *The Czechs and the Lands of Bohemian Crown*, Stanford 2004.
- Angelo Maria RIPELLINO, *Magic Prague*, London: Picador, 1995, 333 p.
- Peter DEMETZ, *Prague in Black and Gold: The history of a city*, Penguin Books, 1998, 411p.
- Vladislav DUDÁK, *Prague Pilgrim, or Prague from every side*, Praha: Baset, 1995, 203 p.
- Mikuláš TEICH (ed.), *Bohemia in History*, Cambridge University Press 1998, 398 p. - Petr ČORNEJ – Jiří POKORNÝ, *A brief history of the Czech lands to 2000*, Praha: Práh, 2000, 94 p.
- Josef V. POLIŠENSKÝ, *History of Czechoslovakia in Outline*, Praha: Bohemia International, 1991, 144 p.

Be sure you are aware of the UPCES Academic Integrity Policy and the Code of Conduct that you signed prior to your arrival.

If you want to read the policies again, please stop by the UPCES office.