CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Psychology of Transition and Transformation
Course code: PSYC 3001 PRAG / POLI 3001 PRAG
Programs offering course: Central European Studies, Communication, New Media, and Journalism
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description
What happens when you suddenly find yourself in the society of unknown rules and most of your previous knowledge is useless? What are the psychological pre-conditions but also consequences of the political changes in 90s and how can we account for them in psychological terms? How can we link it to some social issues moving the Czech society now? Those will be the key questions that we will elaborate on in this course, which is open to students of all disciplines, however the focus is on psychology not history or other disciplines. Different theoretical perspectives would be used, while critical social psychology would be the main theoretical source. We will discuss problems related to socialization in the totalitarian regime, demands political changes towards democracy put on individuals in the Czech society, and whether we can find traces of these unique experiences in current society. Communist regime was strongly linked with regulated socialization in chosen institutions and forced civil participation, which in fact meant people exiled to private life and resigned on authentic community participation. Has this changed so far? We will apply some general psychological terms and theories and use them for explanation of experiences of totalitarian past on the Czech society and individuals. Cultural specifics related to non-violent change of the society from totality to democracy will be discussed. Concept of post-totalitarian syndrome will be presented and further analyzed in relation to some current issues in the Czech society, such as xenophobia and prejudice towards immigrants or other minorities. Interesting changes are also implied in terms of gender equality. We will have a closer look at the transformation of the health and social services, particularly in regard to mental health.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:

The course objective is to help students to reflect upon their own cross-cultural and political experiences and understand some specific cultural, social and psychological features of the Czech society.

- apply general psychological terms and theories for possible explanations of experiences of totalitarian past on Czech society and individuals;
- understand and explain societal specifics in the context of transition of the Czech society;
- compare and contrast psychological and social problems that appear in connection to transformation in the Czech society with focus on people on the societal margins;
- analyze different social problems employing the perspective of critical social psychology and think about possibilities of future development.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Class will combine frontline teaching (lectures with PowerPoint presentations) with interactive tasks, discussions, video viewing and discussion, and collaborative practices. In order to enhance experiential learning, the course will include field trips and guest lectures.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm Assignment 20%
2. Reading Presentation 20%
3. Learning Portfolio presentation and reflection 25%
4. Reflections 15%
5. Active Participation 20%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Midterm Assignment

Students will visit outside of scheduled course hours a particular museum exhibition related to the class topics and write a reflection paper using required readings/other sources of their own choice (about 1000-1500 words). Presentation of the paper is a mandatory part of the assignment.

Reading Presentation

Each student will present, in class, one required or related reading, while another student will serve as a discussant. The schedule of reading presentations will be determined during the first week of classes and published on the Canvas course site.

Learning Portfolio presentation and reflection

Throughout the course students would document their learning progress via collection of different materials (incl. quizzes, tests, reflections, own notes, pictures etc.). Final exam will consist of presentation of the physical portfolio and delivery of personal reflection statement (finals week).

Reflections

Students have to hand in three short reflections (500-750 words each) for at least two of the required guest lecture (lectures and dates TBA) and one field trip. Students should demonstrate their ability to tie the topics of the guest lectures and field trip(s) to the course concepts and topics.

Active Participation

Active participation in class discussions; show knowledge of compulsory reading for instance via reading questions/comments in canvas or in-class reading quizzes, preparing smaller tasks during the lectures/between lectures, such as searching for materials on a chosen topic, or in-class work on different tasks while materials and instructions are provided by the teacher; active participation during activities, such as field trips and guest lecture(s).

CIEE Prague Class Participation Policy
Assessment of students’ participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students are required to actively, meaningfully and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and all types of in-class activities throughout the duration of the class. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed, in advance of each class session. This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Students are responsible for following the course content and are expected to ask clarification questions if they cannot follow the instructor’s or other students’ line of thought or argumentation.

The use of electronic devices is only allowed for computer-based in-class tests, assignments and other tasks specifically assigned by the course instructor. Students are expected to take notes by hand unless the student is entitled to the use of computer due to his/her academic accommodations. In such cases the student is required to submit an official letter issued by his/her home institution specifying the extent of academic accommodations.

Class participation also includes students’ active participation in Canvas discussions and other additional tasks related to the course content as specified by the instructor.

Students will receive a partial participation grade every three weeks.

**CIEE Prague Attendance Policy**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences are treated equally regardless of reason for any affected CIEE course. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursions or events, as well as Internship.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the
absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

Missing classes will lead to the following penalties:

90-minute semester classes:

180-minute semester classes:

Persistent absenteeism (students approaching 20% of the total course hours missed, or violating the attendance policy in more than one class) will result in a written warning, a notification to the student’s home school, and possibly a dismissal from the program.

Missing more than 20% of the total class hours will lead to a course failure, and potential program dismissal. This is a CIEE rule that applies to all CIEE courses and is in line with the Participant Contract that each CIEE student signs before arriving on-site.

Late arrival to class will be considered a partial (up to 15 minutes late) or full (15 or more minutes late) absence. Three partial absences due to late arrivals will be regarded as one full class absence.

Students must notify their professor and Program Coordinators (PC) beforehand if they are going to miss class for any reason and are responsible for any material covered in class in their absence.

If missing a class during which a test, exam, the student’s presentation or other graded class assignments are administered, make-up assignment will only be
allowed in approved circumstances, such as serious medical issues. In this case, the student must submit a local doctor’s note within 24 hours of his/her absence to the PC, who will decide whether the student qualifies for a make-up assignment. Doctor’s notes may be submitted via e-mail or phone (a scan or a photograph are acceptable), however the student must ensure that the note is delivered to the PC.

Should a truly extraordinary situation arise, the student must contact the PC immediately concerning permission for a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments are not granted automatically! The PC decides the course of action for all absence cases that are not straightforward. Always contact the PC with any inquiry about potential absence(s) and the nature thereof.

Personal travel (including flight delays and cancelled flights), handling passport and other document replacements, interviews, volunteering and other similar situations are not considered justifiable reasons for missing class or getting permission for make-up assignments.

For class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips, make-up classes and other instances), always contact the Academic Assistant to decide the appropriate course of action.

Course attendance is recorded on individual Canvas Course Sites. Students are responsible for checking their attendance regularly to ensure the correctness of the records. In case of discrepancies, students are required to contact the Academic Assistant within one week of the discrepancy date to have it corrected. Later claims will not be considered.

CIEE staff does not directly manage absences at FAMU and ECES, but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.

CIEE Academic Honesty Policy

CIEE subscribes to standard U.S. norms requiring that students exhibit the highest standards regarding academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the program. Standards of honesty and norms governing originality of work differ significantly from country to country. We expect
students to adhere to both the American norms and the local norms, and in the case of conflict between the two, the more stringent of the two will preside. Three important principles are considered when defining and demanding academic honesty. These are related to the fundamental tenet that one should not present the work of another person as one’s own.

The first principle is that final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from another person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an “open book” basis).

The second principle applies specifically to course work: the same written paper may not be submitted in two classes. Nor may a paper for which you have already received credit at your home institution be submitted to satisfy a paper requirement while studying overseas.

The third principle is that any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with a course. This usually is done when quoting directly from another’s work or including information told to you by another person. The general rule is that if you have to look something up, or if you learned it recently either by reading or hearing something, you have to document it.

The penalty ranges from an F grade on the assignment, failure in the course to dismissal from the program. The Academic Director is consulted and involved in decision making in every case of a possible violation of academic honesty.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for short-term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they
were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences will lead to the following penalties:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements; grade penalty &amp; <strong>written warning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Automatic <strong>course failure</strong>, and possible expulsion</td>
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N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Class**
Introduction to class, course plan and requirements.
Coping with cultural shock.

Cultural adjustment and adaptation.

Discussion of students’ reflections on their cross-cultural experiences. Introductory group activities.

Related reading:


Week 2
Class Socialization and relationships in totalitarian regime.

Required reading:


Reading Presentations 1&2

Non-violent conflict resolution in the Czech history. Post-totalitarian syndrome as a psychological reaction to political development.

Related reading:


Related reading:


Reading Presentations 3&4

Week 3
Class Understanding power mechanisms in communist regimes, critical reflections.
Guest lecture and its reflection.

Required Reading:


Reading Presentation 5

Week 4
Class
Psychologists on conformity and social influence.

From traditional to critical perspectives.

Required reading:


Reading Presentation 6

Reflection on Guest Lecture 1 due

Week 5
Class
Psychology for social justice. Relevance in the transforming society.

Required reading:

Fox, D., Prilleltensky, I. (2009)

Reading Presentation 7

Week 6
Class
Midterm Exam Period

Midterm presentations, class evaluation, plan for the second half of the term.

Midterm assignment due

Week 7
Class  Transformation of social and healthcare services in the Czech Republic
– focus on psychological and psychiatric care.

Site visit - Psychiatric Hospital Bohnice, this site visit will extend regular class hours.

Related reading:

Füredi, J et al. (2006), pp. 223 – 221.

Reading Presentation 8

Week 8

Class  Transformation of social and healthcare services in the Czech Republic
– focus on psychological and psychiatric care.

Site visit – Fokus community centre

Required reading:

Fox, D., Prilleltensky, I. (2009)

Related reading:


Reading Presentations 9&10

Reflection on field trip due

Week 9

Class  Society at transformation, focus on gender perspective.

Required reading:

Hana Havelková (2014).
Related reading:

Fox, D., Prilleltensky, I. (2009)

Reading Presentations 11&12

Week 10
Class People at margins – homelessness and women.

Guided tour lead by women with homeless and substance user experience, focus on services and need for the transformation.

Required reading:


Related reading:


Reading Presentation 13&14

Reflection on Guest Lecture 2 due

Week 11
Class From emigration to immigration:

Growing diversity in the Czech society and xenophobic backlash. Concepts of race, race inequalities and its psycho-social consequences.

Required reading:

Fox, D., Prilleltensky, I. (2009)

Reading Presentation 15

Week 12
Class From emigration to immigration:
growing diversity in the Czech society and xenophobic backlash. Concepts of race, race inequalities and its psycho-social consequences.

Required reading:


Reading Presentation 16

Week 13
Class Final Exam Week

Portfolio presentations. Class evaluation.

Portfolio reflection due.

Course Materials
Readings

Required readings


Related readings