CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Art and Architecture of Prague
Course code: AHIS 3001 PRAG
Programs offering course: Summer Central European Studies
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Summer Session I 2020

Course Description

This comprehensive course focuses on the architectural, artistic and urban development of Prague as a typical example of a European city. The City of Prague serves as a model of hallmark attributes of European art, architecture and urban history throughout centuries that students learn to recognize, interpret and understand their significance within the aesthetic system of each style. The course also addresses historical and aesthetic concepts related to the development of the city from the past to the present, including the effect of two totalitarian systems on the development of art and architecture, exploring how the tools of propaganda worked in these regimes in contrast to the art and architecture created in a liberal and democratic society.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- acquire basic philosophical, historical, and aesthetic concepts related to the European history of art, architecture and urbanism, and employ them when interpreting works of art and architecture;
- identify, analyze and explain significant architectural and artistic attributes typical for all European styles, while also recognizing the specifics of Central European and Prague environment;
- describe in detail, analyze and interpret a work of art or architecture, employing concepts and theories covered in class;
- analyze, explain and assess different artistic means of expressions, approaches and/or treatments used for similar topics or motifs in different artistic styles and defend their arguments.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

In addition to in-class instruction, consisting of lectures, discussions, group work and student presentations, the course includes a significant experiential component which allows for the application of theoretical knowledge acquired through readings and class discussions during weekly field trips to various areas of Prague.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Course work: Students' Activity in Class & During Field Trips 35%
2. Assignments / Papers 35%
3. 2 in-class Tests 30%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Course work: Students' Activity in Class & During Field Trips
Assignments / Papers

Concise informative daily papers are related to the study guidelines (ca 1-2 pages in length). Written homework is required for all historical periods. The content of the paper/assignment will be graded during the course. Students’ active participation during field trips is incorporated in the final grading.
NOTE: The content of the mandatory papers

- a general description of the origin and the basic attributes of each historical style (answering questions related to mandatory readings)
- an overview of the typical attributes of art, architecture and urbanism of the studies period

Topics of mandatory papers

1st half of the semester:
- 1 paper on the Romanesque period
- 2 papers on the Gothic period
- 1 paper on the Renaissance period

2nd half of the semester:
- 1 paper on the Baroque period
- 1 paper on the Rococo or the Neo-classical period
- 1 paper on the 19C
- 1 paper on the 20C

2 in-class Tests

There will be 2 written tests: a midterm test in the first half of the semester and a final test in the second half of the semester. Both these tests will focus on Prague. Students have to complete the mandatory part of tests and or are invited to elaborate the test extension section for extra credit. The tests will consist of:

- Quiz questions
- "Matching" questions: matching images and descriptions or terms (testing intellectual skills)

The professor reserves the right to administer quizzes and short presentations with little or no notification, especially if students are consistently unprepared for class.

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.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program.

If you will miss a class for any reason, notify the Program Coordinator and your instructor beforehand via Canvas. You are responsible for any materials covered in class during your absence, and except in the specific cases listed below, credit will not be granted for missed assessments.
Excessive absences will result in a notification letter, and finally a warning letter, sent to you and your home school, based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of course hours missed</th>
<th>Number of CIEE classes</th>
<th>Minimum penalty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>One to Three 90-min. classes; or One 180-min. class</td>
<td>No penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% - 20%</td>
<td>Four 90-min. classes</td>
<td>Written notification* to the student, followed by a warning letter to the student and home school; 3% reduction in the final grade</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five 90-min. classes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two 180-min classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Six 90-min. classes; or Three 180-min. classes</td>
<td>Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion with notification to the home school</td>
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</table>

* The notification letters are intended to ensure that you are well advised in advance of any potential for failure or dismissal, so that you can take steps to avoid this.

As the table shows, **missing more than 20% of any class (e.g., due to undocumented illness, travel delays, flight cancellations, over-sleeping, etc.) results in automatic failure of the course.**

If you miss an assessment in class due to an absence, you will be able to make it up in the following instances:

- You provide a relevant doctor's note from a local medical professional to your Program Coordinator within 24 hours of your absence (a scan or photograph sent via e-mail are acceptable)
- A CIEE staff member verifies that you were too ill to attend class.
- You provide evidence of a family emergency to your Program Coordinator.
- You have an approved absence related to the observance of a religious holiday from the Academic Director based on a request submitted before you arrived onsite.

**Please note:** Absences incurred due to documented illness, documented family emergency or the observance of a religious holiday approved before arrival onsite do not count towards the total of absences. Students may self-certify one absence due to illness without providing a doctor's note as long as they notify the Program Coordinator within 24 hours of their absence by e-mail or a text message.

**Other attendance-related policies**

If you transfer from one CIEE class to another during the Add/Drop period, you will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of the new class provided you were marked present for the first session(s) of the original class.

If you are over 15 minutes late for a class, the instructor is required to mark you absent.

In case of class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips and make-up classes), always contact the Academic Department to decide the appropriate course of action.

Please remember to track your attendance on the Canvas Course Sites and report any errors in the record to the Academic Department within one week of the discrepancy date, as later claims may not be considered.

These attendance rules also apply to any required co-curricular excursion, activity, or event, and to for-credit internships.

CIEE staff does not manage absences at partner institutions providing direct enrolment classes (FAMU, ECES and FSV), but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.

*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

Day 1: Course introduction, objectives and requirements

Day 2: Classical Greek and Roman Art and Architecture, Romanesque Architecture in Western European countries and in Prague, Byzantine and Islamic Heritage in Europe

Content of the teaching units:
- principles of the Classical Art and Architecture, Antique aesthetic values and their legacy
- historical background and rise of the Romanesque period, monasticism
- impact of non-Christian cultures on European Environment
- basic attributes of the Romanesque style
- rise of a medieval town: beginnings of Prague

Mandatory readings:
- Stankova-Stursa-Vodera, 7-27
- Gombrich, 75-99
- Homerova: course pack

Day 3: Educational tour training: conducting educational tours in Romanesque Prague

Recommended readings:
- Cornej, introductory reading
- Pavitt, 4-10
- Scully, 33-155

Week 2

Day 4: Gothic Architecture in Europe and in Prague

Content of the teaching units:
Early, High and Late Gothic periods in Europe and in Prague
- historical background, rise of Gothic art and architecture in the Middle Ages,
- typical attributes of Early, High and Late Gothic in Prague and in European regions
- Prague’s Gothic urbanism
- housing in a medieval town

Educational tour training: conducting educational tours in Gothic Prague

Mandatory readings:
Stankova-Stursa-Vodera, 29-78
Gombrich, 117-143
Homerova: course pack

Recommended reading:
Pavitt, 10-18
Scully, 155 – 183

Day 5: Renaissance Architecture in Europe and Prague

Content of the teaching units:
- philosophical and aesthetic concept at the beginning of the New Age
- basic Renaissance attributes in different European regions and in Prague
- changes in urban development, Prague during the reign of Rudolf II, Mannerism, Italian garden
- masterpieces of Prague and European Renaissance art and architecture
Educational tour training: conducting guided tour in Renaissance Prague

Mandatory readings:

Stankova-Stursa-Vodera, 79 - 102
Scully, 183 - 275
Gombrich, 269-361
Homeroova: course pack

Midterm exam: test 1 on Prague: focusing on the historical periods ranging from the beginnings of Prague to the Renaissance.

Day 6: Baroque and Rococo in Europe and in Prague

- description of the teaching unit: Early Baroque, High Baroque, Late Baroque, Rococo
- studying the philosophical and aesthetic concepts of Baroque and Rococo on the basis of comparison
- learning about the basic attributes of European Baroque and Rococo art and architecture in the 17th and 18th centuries
- recognizing the Baroque development of Prague as a European city, Baroque changes in other European regions, especially in Central Europe, new fortification system
- learning about landscape planning, summer houses, gardens, interiors, house signs
- learning about the Baroque fortification system
- learning about the specifics of Rococo art and architecture in different European regions and in Prague, Rococo interiors

Educational tour: Baroque Prague

Mandatory readings:

Stankova-Stursa-Vodera, 105 -183
Gombrich, 387- 413
Homeroova: course pack

Week 3

Class:

Day 7: Prague and European Art and Architecture: Neo-Classicism, Empire, Neo-styles throughout the 19th century. Urban Development of European cities from the end of the 18th to the end of the 19th century. Municipal and industrial engineering, housing.

Description of the teaching units:

- learning about the significant changes in society during the Industrial Revolution, growth of the European and American cities
- studying new styles in architecture at the end of the 18th century – Neoclassicism, Empire
- learning about the changes of the municipal engineering and industrial architecture in the first half of 19th century
- studying the Neo-styles’ attributes and new types of building
- the changes in housing, the impact of the growth of the city in municipal engineering, new industrial suburbs
- learning about the significant changes in the art of the 19th century related to the contemporary European context
- learning about the new concepts of the town and landscape-planning within the 19th century, English park
- studying the attributes of Art Nouveau on the models of European Art Nouveau schools, specific characteristics of Art Nouveau in Prague

Educational tour: conducting guided tours of prominent Prague sights from the end of the 18th century and the 19th century
Day 8: Prague Architecture in the first half of the 20th century, Modernism and its forms:
Cubism, Art Deco, Traditionalism, Constructivism, Functionalism, Art and Architecture in
Nazi Totalitarian regime

Description of the teaching units:

- studying the new aesthetic concept and life style in the first half of the 20th century
- learning about art conceived in Modernism in the context of European development,
- studying the typical basic attributes of Cubism, Constructivism, Art Deco and Functionalism
- learning about the significant changes in housing and life style in Modernism, town-planning,
  changes in municipal engineering, social housing
- learning about the most prominent masterpieces of Modern architecture in Prague – National
  Cubism, avant-garde art and architecture
- studying the basic artistic trends in the first half of the 20th century
- learning about the role of art and architecture in the Nazi regime

Educational tour: conducting guided tour focused on Prague Modern and POMO art and
architecture

Mandatory readings:
Stankova-Stursa-Vodera, 269 - 307
Gombrich, 475-535
Homerova: course pack

Day 9: Art and Architecture after World War II: Post Modernism, Socialist Realism

Description of the teaching units:

- studying the basic philosophical and aesthetic principles in Po-Mo after 1945
- learning about the basic trends in Po-Mo art and architecture, significant examples of Po-Mo
  artefacts and buildings, new town planning
- learning about the development of pro-regime art and architecture in Communist regimes, the
  attributes of Socialist Realism

Mandatory readings:
Stankova-Stursa-Vodera
Gombrich, 535-626

Week 4
Class:

Day 10: Art and Architecture after World War II: the urban development and housing in the
Communist Totalitarian Regime

- learning about the urban development of Prague in the Communist era, the role of the state
  in the urban planning and architecture of Prague and its negative consequences for today
- learning about living conditions in the "socialist” housing estates
- recognizing new significant Prague buildings constructed after 1989
- recognizing the current problems of preservation care and protection of historic cities

Educational tour: conducting a guided tour focused on the period after 1945

Mandatory readings:
Homerova: course pack
Day 11: Required historical excursions
- Jalta and Internacional hotels, Wenceslas Square, socialist housing estates, Dancing House

Day 12: Final exam: test 2 on Prague
- focusing on the historical period ranging from the Baroque to the Po-Mo period

Course Materials
Readings

Required Readings
These 2 books and readings create the essential part of the study:
Homerova, Marie: course pack materials, supportive materials and study guidelines

Recommended Readings
Corney, P.: A Brief History of the Czech Lands, Praha 2002
Vlcek, Thomas: Kubisticka Praha/Cubist Prague 1909 - 1925, a guidebook. Detail, Prague, 1995
Scully, Vincent: Architecture, the Natural and Man Made, New York 1991
Grove/MacMillan: Dictionary of Art, (32 volumes-see entries concerning the architecture in the Czech Republic)