CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

**Course title:** The Habsburg Empire - A Political and Cultural History

**Course code:** HIST 3008 PRAG

**Programs offering course:** Central European Studies, Communication, New Media, and Journalism

**Language of instruction:** English

**U.S. semester credits:** 3.00

**Contact hours:** 45.00

**Term:** Spring 2021

### Course Description

This course explores the political and diplomatic history of the Habsburg Empire, from the emergence of the Habsburg dynasty to the dissolution of Austria-Hungary at the end of World War I, emphasizing key turning points, such as the reign of Maximilian I and his marriage policy, the figure of Charles V, the Battle of Mohacs and the birth of a Central European Empire, the Counter-Reformation, the enlightened absolutism of Maria Theresa and Joseph II, the system of Metternich and the reign of Francis Joseph. This provides a framework for an analysis of interdisciplinary questions, such as the role of religion or the multinational Empire, with the aim of bringing to the fore the uniqueness of the culture developed in the Empire.

### Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the history of the Habsburg Empire;
- contextualize European history through the study of the Empire’s interaction with the major European powers;
- examine and illustrate the impact of the Habsburgs on the cultural environment in Prague and Central Europe;
- analyze primary texts involving the history of the Habsburg Empire and critically read the secondary literature on Central Europe;
- apply this knowledge of the history and analytical skills to produce a research paper.

### Course Prerequisites

None, but general knowledge of European history is helpful. Interest in history is a must, as well as the readiness to use local resources, especially libraries.

### Methods of Instruction

This course is lecture-based (which does not mean that questions and discussions are not strongly encouraged). Chronologies and summaries are provided for each chapter (on Canvas). The required readings are available on Canvas, they amount to an average of about 40 pages/week. They combine primary and secondary sources (in English translation).

This class includes a field trip to discover how the Habsburg rule over Bohemia has shaped Prague’s architecture. Other field trips might be organized (according to the number of students and the cultural program in Prague during the semester). Field trips are part of the regular curriculum.

Participation in the CIEE optional abroad trip to Vienna is strongly recommended.

### Assessment and Final Grade

1. Two Short Quizzes 10%
2. Presentation 10%
3. Research Paper 30%
4. Midterm Exam 20%
5. Final Exam 20%
Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**Course Requirements**

**Two Short Quizzes**

Two unannounced short quizzes will test the students’ knowledge of the significance of main historical events in the Habsburg history and their understanding of the most important points discussed in class.

**Presentation**

Each student will be responsible for researching the history of a specific site related to Habsburg history (the list depends on the number of students enrolled in the class and will therefore be made available at the beginning of the semester) and to present it during the tour of Habsburg Prague. S/he will prepare a one-page handout with a summary of the findings to be distributed to the other students during the tour. The instructor is available to review this handout beforehand but it is the responsibility of each student to have enough copies on the day of the tour.

**Research Paper**

Each student will write a research paper whose topic will be chosen with the help of the lecturer and according to his/her major and interests. For the writing of this paper, the use of Prague libraries (especially of the National Library at the Klementinum) is highly recommended. The paper should have a length of 3000 words (+/- 10%) and respect the following format: Times New Roman 12, spacing 1.5, margins 1 inch. In the course of the semester, each student will submit a proposed topic and bibliography and an outline, before submitting the final paper at the end of the semester.

**Midterm Exam**

**Final Exam**

Midterm and final exams are not cumulative. They last for one session and consist of 2 essays each. They should be prepared with the help of the study questions available on Canvas. Time permitting, review sessions might be organized but the students are strongly encouraged to study regularly, alone, or in groups. The instructor is available for help and advice regarding the study questions.

**Participation**

The participation grade will reflect the engagement of the student in the class, his/her contribution to the learning atmosphere and preparedness for the discussion of primary sources. The primary texts should be studied with the help of reading questions available on Canvas.

**CIEE Prague Participation Policy**

Assessment of students’ participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. 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.

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. If missing a class, the student is expected to catch up on the class content and to submit well-reflected and in-depth contributions to Canvas discussions on the particular topic or reflections to the instructor to ensure that his/her absence from the class will not significantly affect his/her participation grade.

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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<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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* 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 enrollment 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**

Class:  Introduction. The Beginnings of Habsburg Austria
Austria from the Romans to the Babenbergs

The Rise of the Habsburgs

Readings

Primary Sources

Frederick I, Holy Roman Emperor: Privilegium Minus (1156)

Secondary material


**Week 2**

Class: Tu, Felix Austria, Nube

The Capture of the Imperial Crown

Marriage as a means for diplomacy

Readings

Secondary material


**Week 3**

Class: Threats from Outside, Threats from Within

The Turkish Wars and the Consequences of the Battle of Mohács

The Protestant Reformation: origins, theories, political consequences

Readings

Primary Sources

Martin Luther: To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation (1520)

Martin Luther: Confrontation at the Diet of Worms (1521)

Emperor Charles V: Peace of Augsburg (1555)

Secondary material

Johnson (2011): 64-84.

**Week 4**

Class: An Empire Divided

Reformation and Counter Reformation

The Road to War

The Thirty Years War

Resumption of the Turkish Wars

Readings

Primary Sources

Rudolf II, Holy Roman Emperor: Letter of Majesty (1609)

Secondary material


Research paper: topic and bibliography are due
Week 5
Class: The Assertion of the Great Power position
Consolidation in the East: Hungary and Transylvania
Struggle in the West: France and the War of the Spanish Succession
The Pragmatic Sanction and its Consequences
Readings
Primary Sources
Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor: The Pragmatic Sanction (1713)
Secondary material
Kann: (1977): 54-100.

Week 6
Class: Habsburg Prague
Field trip
Midterm exam

Week 7
Class: The Crisis of 1740 and the Consequences
The War of the Austrian Succession
The Diplomatic Revolution
The Beginnings of the Austro-Prussian Rivalry
Readings - Secondary material

Week 8
Class: Enlightened Absolutism
A theory of Enlightened Absolutism
The Reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph II and their consequences
Habsburg policy towards the Jews
Readings
Primary Sources
Immanuel Kant: What is Enlightenment? (1782)
Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor: Edict of Tolerance (1782)
Secondary material
Research paper: outlines are due

Week 9
Class: Revolution and the Return of the Old Order
Facing the French Revolution: the clash of political and philosophical orders
The Napoleonic Wars, the Congress of Vienna and the alliance of conservative monarchies
The Metternich Era and the end of Enlightened absolutism

Readings
Primary Sources
Confederation of the Rhine: Dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire (1806)
German Confederation: The Carlsbad Decrees – Confederal Press Law (1819)

Secondary material

Week 10
Class: Revolution, Reaction, Modernization
The rise of nationalism among the Habsburg peoples
The Revolution of 1848
Transition to Constitutional Government and creation of the Dual Monarchy
Emancipation of the Habsburg Jews
The end of the liberal era and the birth of Jewish nationalism

Readings
Primary Sources
František Palacký: Letter to the Frankfurt Parliament (1848)
Austrian Constitution: Fundamental Law Concerning the General Rights of Citizens (1867)
Theodor Herzl: A Solution to the Jewish Question (1896)

Secondary material

Week 11
Class: Primus Inter Pares?
Habsburg Foreign Policy after 1848
The Austro-Prussian struggle for Germany supremacy and the creation of Germany
The fateful German alliance
The end of the Great European Power

Readings
Primary Sources
Austria-Hungary and Germany: The Dual Alliance (1879)
Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia: The Three Emperors’ League (1881)

Secondary material
Johnson (2011): 141-161

Research papers are due
Week 12
Class: Austria Delenda Est

National conflicts and the (imagined?) Serbian threat
The road to World War I
World War I, the Paris Peace Conference and the end of Habsburg Austria

Readings

Primary Sources
Woodrow Wilson: The Fourteen Points (1918)
Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk: The Case for the Successor States

Secondary material

Week 13
Class: Final Exam Week

Review session and Final exam

Course Materials
Readings

Primary Sources (in chronological order)
Frederick I, Holy Roman Emperor: “Privilegium Minus” (1156)
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/medieval/austria.asp

Luther, Martin: “To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation” (1520)
https://history.hanover.edu/texts/luthad.html

Luther, Martin: “Confrontation at the Diet of Worms” (1521)
http://www-personal.ksu.edu/~lyman/english233/Luther-Diet_of_Worms.htm

Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor: “Peace of Augsburg” (1555)


Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor: “The Pragmatic Sanction” (1713)
http://personal.ashland.edu/~jmoser1/enlight/pragmatic.htm

Kant, Immanuel: “What is Enlightenment?” (1782)
https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/mod/kant-whatis.asp

Joseph II, Holy Roman Emperor: “Edict of Tolerance” (1782)


Confederation of the Rhine: “Dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire” (1806)
https://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/516/
German Confederation: “The Carlsbad Decrees – Confederal Press Law” (1819)

Palacký, František: “Letter to the Frankfurt Parliament” (1848)
http://www.age-of-the-sage.org/history/1848/palacky_letter.html

“Austrian Constitution: Fundamental Law Concerning the General Rights of Citizens” (1867)
https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/1443

Austria-Hungary and Germany: “The Dual Alliance” (1879)
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/dualalli.asp

Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia: “The Three Emperors’ League” (1881)

Wilson, Woodrow: “The Fourteen Points” (1918)
http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp


Secondary sources

Chapters from the following books:


Recommended Readings

The following books were also used to prepare the course. Students are not required to read them but they provide a good basis for further study and for the research paper.
