CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

**Course title:** Czech Sports History and the Outdoor Culture

**Course code:** SOCI 2001 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

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**Course Description**

This course provides a basic overview of the role of sport in the Czech Republic from historical, sociological and political perspectives. Sport and physical activities are an integral part of Czech identity since the days of Czech National Revival. Revivalists sought to elevate the spirit and body in the intention of the classical Greek ideal of Kalos kagathos, the possession of the beautiful and the good. The interwar period saw a great increase in the scope of outdoor activities and the number of people engaging in them. During the Nazi occupation of Bohemia and Moravia, sport and outdoor movements (Sokol and DTJ Junák) were brutally suppressed. A ban on their activities and the persecution of their members continued throughout the Communist era. Despite this, sport and outdoor activities represented a way of escaping political repression, giving rise to "tramping", a phenomenon of attractive alternative culture which incorporated woodcraft, hiking, camping and scouting and which was perceived as "internal emigration". Specifically, the course examines current trends in the Czech society and their influence on the development and practice of outdoor activities, including the concept of Czech physical culture and the outdoor concept of "turoistika", a nation-specific type of hiking. It also offers an inter-disciplinary perspective of some contemporary sports-related issues, such as violence, cheating, doping and technologies in sport.

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**Learning Objectives**

By completing this course, students will:

- Examine contemporary issues in sport from an inter-disciplinary perspective of various humanistic disciplines and understand sport as an important social phenomenon
- Analyze the specific nature and features of Czech sport and its organization and evaluate the Czech concept of Turistika and its practical activities.
- Discuss and better understand the importance of outdoor activities and sports
- Compare sporting events in the Czech Republic and the US
- Assess the role of illegal substance and technology in sport performance

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**Course Prerequisites**

None

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**Methods of Instruction**

Lectures with the use of PowerPoint presentations.

Class discussions and debates (in small groups), dealing with various questions arising from the given theme.

Guest lectures.

Field trips.

Voluntary participation in specific sporting events is at students’ own risk.

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**Assessment and Final Grade**

1. Essay on a recommended topic 20%
2. Individual presentation on a recommended topic 20%
3. Homework 20%
4. Midterm Multiple Choice Test 10%
5. Final Written Exam 10%
6. Participation in Sessions 20%
TOTAL 100%

**Course Requirements**

**Essay on a recommended topic**

A 750-word essay is required on one of recommended topics.

Evaluation criteria: scope and depth of the topic’s coverage, quality of interpretation, originality.

**Individual presentation on a recommended topic**

Each student will prepare a presentation on a selected topic. The presentation must be interactive, inspire a discussion and raise challenging questions. Each presenter should prepare at least three questions for a follow-up discussion in the class.

Evaluation criteria: scope and depth of the topic’s coverage, relevance of the presentation form, engagement of other students.

**Homework**

The students must read required readings prior to each class session in order to be able to participate in discussions of the suggested themes.

**Midterm Multiple Choice Test**

Assessment of knowledge and understanding of the course material presented during the first 5 lectures (theoretical background of Czech physical culture and history).

**Final Written Exam**

During the final exam, students should demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the specific nature and features of Czech sport and its various organizations playing a role in sport and the outdoor activities. The exam will include multiple-choice, short-answer and essay-style questions.

**Participation in Sessions**

**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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<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**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>What Is Sport?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to the Topic Features</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sport as a social phenomenon, its socio-historical development in modern and postmodern society. Basic characterization of the system of Czech education, sport and PE in Czech education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Terms, concepts, definitions</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Required readings:</strong></td>
<td>Coakley, J. (2014) Chapters 1 and 2,</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>Sport and Politics</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sport as an expression of philosophical anthropology.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Examples of the relation between sport and politics:</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Famous Czech Sportspeople</strong></td>
<td>Presenting life stories of great Czech athletes within the most popular sports and discussing them. (Zátopek, Čáslavská, Jágr)</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>Sport and Philosophy</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Presentation of Patočka’s ideas of the existence of the human being and the exploration of the topic of human movement (“three movements of human existence”) and discussion in relation to corporeality.</td>
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<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>History of Czech Outdoor Activities</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>Historical roots of outdoor activities abroad and in the Czech Republic: Comenius, the Sokol organization, Junák (Scouting), Woodcraft, Club of Czech Tourists, Jaroslav Foglar, Tramping.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>Concepts of Outdoor Activities and Outdoor Education</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>The Czech approach to outdoor education and outdoor activities compared to the Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian or German approach. Czech “turistika”, dramaturgy, friluftsliv, Erlebnispädagogik.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>Midterm Exam Period</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Midterm test, Review and instruction to midterm presentation. Midterm Presentations</td>
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Week 7
Class: Violence and Cheating in Sport

Violence, aggression and assertion. Violence in pursuit of sporting goals. Discussion of cheating (sport rules and rule-breaking) from philosophical, ethical and sociological perspectives. Match-fixing and gambling corruption.

**Required readings:**


Week 8
Class: Technologies in Sport

The role of technology in the development of sport. When (and when not) is new technology acceptable? Disability sport and technology.

**Required readings:**


Week 9
Class: Current Trends in Society and Their Effect on the Development and Practice of Outdoor Activities

Reasons for the demand for outdoor activities today, global trends, local traditions, artificial environments, future trends.

**Required readings:**


Essay due on Thursday, 11:59 p.m. Prague time; submission via Canvas

Week 10
Class: Values of Outdoor Activities

Discussion of the values of outdoor activities in general, followed by a discussion of the values of various particular types of outdoor activities. Comparison of the values of outdoor activities with those of Olympic sports; distinction of intrinsic and extrinsic values.

**Required readings:** Martínková (2013). Chapter 10

Week 11
Class: Moral Problems in Outdoor Activities

Consideration of moral problems in outdoor activities; discussion of a case-study

**Required readings:** Smith and Allison (2007). Selected moral dilemmas

Week 12
Class: Final Review

Final review, Discussion on chosen topics,
Final Test, Final presentations

Week 13
Class: Final Exam

Final presentations
End-of-course discussion
Course Materials

Readings


