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: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 2022

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 the 1990s and how can we account for them in psychological terms? How can we link it to some social issues moving the Czech society now? These are some of the key questions explored in this multidisciplinary course, which employs critical social psychology as its main theoretical source although other theoretical perspectives are also included. The course examines 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 the present day society. The communist regime was strongly linked with regulated socialization in chosen institutions and forced civil participation, which in fact resulted in people's retreat to private life and on an authentic community participation. The course examines the effects of the totalitarian past on the Czech society as a whole as well as on individuals and presents cultural specifics related to non-violent change of the society from totality to democracy. In addition, it analyzes the concept of the post-totalitarian syndrome in relation to some current issues in the Czech society, including xenophobia and prejudice towards immigrants and other minorities, and explores the changes in gender equality and the transformation of the health and social services, particularly in regard to mental health.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Analyze and illustrate the specifics of gender order in Central and Eastern Europe;
- Critically examine the interplay between the local and transnational dimension of gender and apply what they have learned in Prague to their situation at home;
- Develop critical thinking skills related to gender, particularly gender sensitizing;
- Assess the dominant gender ideologies, stereotypes and myths, and critically discuss the different social institutions and processes, including family, work place, labor market and politics, that continue to perpetuate gender inequalities of various degrees across the globe;
- Acquire an in-depth insight into the definitions of gender, gender order under state socialism and its present impact, and critically evaluate the public/private divide, the role of the media and representation in the perpetuation/change of gender roles, and sexuality and sexual politics.

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**

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. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

**Attendance**

To encourage engaged learning, regular class attendance is required throughout the program. This includes any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as internship, service-learning, or other required field placement.

An excused absence in a CIEE course will only be considered if approved by a CIEE Center Director/Academic Director (not the Instructor), and:

- it is a self-certified absence for illness (only once per course, requires formal request before or within 24 hours, cannot miss assessment worth more than 5% of final course grade)
- a doctor's note from a local medical professional is provided
- evidence of a family emergency is provided
- it is a pre-approved observance of religious holiday

Unexcused absences include personal travel and/or travel delays, as well as missing more than 25% of a single class period (including tardiness and early departure). Assessments missed due to unexcused absences will be marked as zero. Students with over 10% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff. Students with over 20% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff, receive a formal warning letter (shared with their home institution) and lose 10% of the final course point total (e.g., a final A grade of 93% will be lowered to a B grade of 83%).

For more detail, please consult your CIEE Academic Manual.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential to a positive and inclusive teaching and learning environment. All students are
expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness, respect, and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own can result in grade penalties or disciplinary action. See the CIEE Student Academic Manual for further information on academic integrity.

N.B. Course schedule and co-curriculars are subject to change. The final duration and distribution of content and assignments will be determined and presented to students at the onset of the course.

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:
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:
- Hana Havelková (2014). “Expropriated Voice: Transformations of Gender Culture under State Socialism,
Related readings: