

Czech Republic

Arts and Social Change

Create, analyze, and contextualize art in Prague.

Coursework

Czech History, Arts, and Civil Society I

EURO/ARTS 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

The course examines Czech society and national identity in historical and contemporary contexts through visual and performing arts, film, and literature. The course is built around the rich and well-known intersection of arts, politics, and social change in Czech history and includes required readings and lectures, film screenings, performances, and site visits. Seminar topics typically include:

Czech History, Politics, and Society

The First Republic and interwar period; the legacy of the Munich agreement; the 1968 Prague Spring and 1970s Normalization period; Vaclav Havel and Charter 77; the secret police; the 1989 Velvet Revolution; Central European identity; social and political legacies of communism.

Czech Arts, Society, and Dissent

Readings in Czech literature; the Sovietization of Czech culture and society; cultural resurgence of the 1960s; dialectic of art and politics under communism; how theater staged the Revolution; the creative legacy of underground culture and dissent.

Educational Excursions

Excursions explore art and contemporary society in the Czech Republic and its neighboring Slavic countries. Students undertake a four-day regional stay with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) or schools in Moravia or Bohemia and visit the UNESCO-protected town of Český Krumlov. A longer excursion to Krakow, Poland, and the mountain region of Central Slovakia allows a comparative view of arts and post-socialist Europe. The program also includes a stop at arts venues in Berlin or Vienna.

Czech History, Arts, and Civil Society II: Creativity in Context

EURO/ARTS 3005 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

This course is an analysis of the development of democracy and civil society following the end of communism. Emphasis is on the nexus of contemporary society, arts, and civic initiatives through personal interviews with artists and civic leaders about the social legacy of communism. It includes readings and roundtable discussions

as well as site visits to NGOs and arts centers. The course runs parallel to Czech History, Arts, and Civil Society I. Seminar topics typically include:

Democracy, Civil Society, and the Arts

Civil society and the arts: definitions, principles, and frameworks; the origins and character of totalitarianism; creation and structure of NGOs in post-communist society; individual and collective civic creativity; the citizen artist.

Arts, Creativity, and Social Change

Grassroots initiatives in rural communities; civic initiatives for human and civil rights; Czech alternative music; Czech humanitarian initiatives abroad; multiculturalism in historical context; theater and social change.

OR

Arts Studio

ARTS 2000–3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

A course geared toward students in the visual and performing arts, or literature, requiring independent studio work in painting, sculpture, photography, dance, or creative writing. Students may work alongside Czech students with professional artists, writers, and dance instructors. In special cases, music and theater studio work may also be arranged. The course includes art openings and other relevant events. The course runs parallel to Czech History, Arts, and Civil Society I.

Intensive Language Study: Czech

CZEC 1000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Emphasis on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction; introduction to basic concepts and principles of Czech grammar. Students are placed in beginning classes.

Arts Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

A required course in qualitative research methods focused on learning across cultures. Topics include cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing skills in observation and interviewing. The course introduces Arts-



Credits 16

Program Base Prague

Language Study Czech

Homestay Prague, 8–12 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay Bohemia or Moravia, 4 days

Other Accommodations Hostels or small hotels, private homes, and arts and NGO centers

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites For visual arts, ceramics, photography, and dance studio work, a basic course or background in the area of study is recommended, but not required. Students enrolling in creative writing must have completed at least one course in fiction writing or poetry. For all students, previous survey courses in European history or arts history is recommended, but not required.

based Research methods (narrative, poetic, dance, and visual forms of inquiry, for example) and models for integrating creative work in a social science research context, which may be used in the Independent Study Project (ISP).

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Prague or in another approved location in the Czech Republic, Poland, or Slovakia. The ISP may comprise a standard field-based research project; visual arts, performing arts, or creative writing; or practical work with a nonprofit organization. Sample topic areas: alternative theaters in the Czech Regions; legacy of Czech underground music; the former Sudetenland today.