

CESTA Prague Art and Architecture

Lecturer: PhDr. Kateřina Průšová

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Consultations: by appointment

Class time: Mon 9:30 – 10:30 am classroom lectures; Wed 10 – 12 am on-site lectures

Course description:

The course is based on field trips in Prague with several excursions outside Prague and abroad. No prerequisite knowledge in Art History is required but is welcome. The city is used as an open classroom and a 3-D text book.

Course objectives:

Upon a successful completion of this course the student should be able to make difference among diverse art styles and have a good orientation in the historical context. The student is led to think independently and interdisciplinary.

Course Schedule:

I. Building up CESTA: Roads and Pathways, Transitions and Alternatives

Week 1 Wed Jan 26

PLAY : interactive introduction into art practice, team building

II. European and Global Contexts

Week 2

Mon Jan 31st: Premysl Otakar II., king of iron and gold; territorial expansion under the last Premyslids and their building activities;

Wed Feb 2nd : Excursion: **Royal Marriage**

Week 3 Mon Feb 7;

Charles IV. Holy Roman Emperor and Bohemian king; the role of art in his political conception, european sovereign.

Wed Feb 9: Excursion: **St. Agnes Convent**

III. Ideas and Ideologies: Church, Nation, State and Totalitarian systems, World Heritage Towns and Vanished Villages

Week 4 Mon Feb 14;

Reformation: Jan Hus, Hussite revolution and a national pride of the 19th century state makers

Wed Feb 16: Excursion: **Betlem Chapel**

Week 5 Mon Feb 21st :

Rudolf II. and religious tolerance; Counter-reformation and establishment of the absolutist system; Radical baroque architecture;

Wed Feb 23rd: Excursion: Church of Our Lady Victorious (**Infant Jesus of Prague**) **St. Nicolas Church at Malá Strana**, event. exhibition **Roelant Savery**

IV. Central Europe in its Diversity: Transitions and Alternatives, Contacts and Conflicts; Czechs and their Neighbors

Week 6 Mon Feb 28:

Prague as a city of Czechs, Germans and Jews; Jewish town, architecture of synagogues; Art and Literature (Meyrink, Heine, Rilke)

Wed March 1st: Excursion: **Jewish Museum**

Cesta to Germany: Regensburg and Nuremberg, March 4-6

Week 7 Mon March 7

Italians in Prague : renaissance, mannerist and baroque art and architecture

Wed March 9: Excursion: **Walenstein Palace, Belveder, Czernin Palace, Loreta, Schwarzenberg Palace**, event. Italian Institute

V. REVIEW: Basic concepts and boundaries; Planning integrative projects

Week 8 Mon March 14

Recapitulation, Planning Integrative Projects, Discussion

Wed March 16: Spring Break

Week 9 Mon March 21, Wed March 23

Birth of Art History: Viennese School and first academic theoreticians; Diverse views on the past and present; Goose march of art styles; History of genial artists or of objects of everyday use? Connoisseurs

VI. Revolution and Social Change

Week 10 Mon March 28

From Napoleonic wars to 1848 – Nationalism and revolutions

Wed March 30: Excursion : **National Theater**

Week 11 Mon April 4

Czech Secession (Art Nouveau) and the triumph of individualism; Lonely artist; Melancholy;

Wed April 6: Excursion: National Gallery, Modern and Contemporary Art Collection, Trade Palace (**Veletržní palác**)

VII. From Institutions and Legal Framework to a new revolt and individualisation

Week 12 Mon April 11

Academies and academic art; New 19th century institutions : National Gallery, National Museum, National Theater; Birth of the monument care and protection and its legal framework;

Wed April 13: Excursion: National Gallery, Modern and Contemporary Art Collection, Trade Palace (**Veletržní palác**)

Cesta to Cracow April 15 - 17

VIII. Memory and Forgetting; Biographies and oral history

Week 13 Mon April 18

Monuments (St. Wenceslas, Franz Joseph, Stalin) – Why do we raise them and destroy them? 19th/20th century

Wed April 20 Excursion: **Lapidarium** of the National Museum

IX. Landscapes: Real and Imaginary

Week 14

Wed April 27

Landart – Aleš Veselý's project in the Negev Desert, context in the Czech contemporary art

X. CESTA at its End: What's Next on the Road? Transitions and Alternatives of the Future

Week 15 Mon May 2

Death of art? Does art have any future? Is conceptual art comprehensible or is it art for art's sake?

Wed May 4: Excursion: **After Velvet**

Week 16 Mon May 9, Wed May 11

Presenting students' integrative projects

Grading

Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than one class during the semester is going to impede your progress and affect your grade. The grade for the semester is going to be determined on the basis of:

- Quizzes (25%)
- Interdisciplinary project (50%)
- Visual journal (25%)

Required readings:

- Klára Benešová, Ivan Prokop Muchka, Jiří T. Kotalík, Pavel Zatloukal, Zdeněk Lukeš, *Ten Centuries of Architecture*, Prague 2001.
- Jiří Fajt, „Charles IV: Toward a New Imperial Style“, Prague, *the Crown of Bohemia 1347–1437*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2005, p. 3–16.
- Eliška Fučíková, „Prague Castle under Rudolf II, His Predecessors and Successors“ *Rudolph II and Prague*, London, 1997, p. 2–71.
- Pavel Vlček, „Architecture in Prague 1550-1650“, *Rudolph II and Prague*, London, 1997, p. 345–352.
- Mojmír Horyna, „Baroque Architecture“, *The Glory of the Baroque in Bohemia*, p. 78–131.
- *Czech Modern Art 1900–1960*, National Gallery Guide, Prague 1995.
- Steven A. Mansbach, *Modern Art in Eastern Europe*, Cambridge University Press, 1998, p. 56–82.
- Jaroslav Anděl, „In Search of Redemption: Visions of Beginning and End“, *Czech Modernism*, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1995, p. 15–33.
- Vladimír Šlapeta, *Czech Functionalism*, London, 1987, p. 8–13.