

# Course List & Descriptions, Semester Programs 2017- 2018

## Charles University

### **Pre-Semester Czech Language and Culture Course (mandatory)**

The Czech Language course meets for ten days before the semester begins for five hours a day, in morning or afternoon sessions. The course is a combination of Czech language instruction, cultural activities, and short excursions throughout Prague. Students will be evaluated in the same manner for both courses and it will consist of the following: midterm test, final exam, homework, and participation. It is worth three U.S. credits. Students may choose either Czech language course:

#### **1. Intensive Czech for Everyday Life (Credit only)**

This course focuses on oral communication skills, daily conversation, and the ability to read and write basic texts. This course is only offered on a pass/fail basis.

#### **2. Intensive Czech Language (grades)**

This course offers a more in-depth study of the Czech language focusing on written and oral communication. This is a prerequisite for students interested in taking the semester-long Czech language course.

### **Course List**

Below is a comprehensive list of ECES courses. The final course schedule is subject to change.

#### **Literature**

- CUFA LIT 339 Romanticism and National Identity in Central Europe
- CUFA LIT 326 American and Czech Literature from European Perspectives: Identity and Role Play
- CUFA LIT 346 Great European Writers: The Life and Work of Karel Capek
- CUFA LIT 315 Czech Ballads in Comparative Perspective: Between Print and Oral Tradition
- CUFA LIT 340 Imagining America, Imagining Europe
- CUFA LIT 310 20th Century Prague Literature in International Context
- CUFA LIT 351 From Page to Screen: 20th-Century Czech Fiction on Film
- CUFA LIT 320 German-Jewish Literature in Prague

#### **Art and Culture**

- CUFA ART 330 Czech Culture and Society, Past and Present
- CUFA ART 309 Czech Cultural Studies: Official and Unofficial Czech Cultures in the 2nd half of the 20th century
- CUFA F 365 Surrealism and Eastern and Central European Cinema- Department  
CUFA
- HIST/POL/ART Czech Culture and Civilization Course: A Field Trip into the Czech Psyche  
303

- CUFA F 368 Czech and Slovak Cinema from the 1950's to Present: Politics, Visuality, and Experimentation - Department
- CUFA ART 321 Art and Photography and Genius Loci
- CUFA ART 301 Czech and European Art and Architecture- Section II
- CUFA F 340 The Cinema of Central Europe: Eroticism, Power, and Fate
- CUFA ART 301 Czech and European Art and Architecture- Section I

## **History**

- CUFA HIST 330 A Failed State? Czechoslovakia 1918-1993
- CUFA HIST 312 The Peoples of Europe: Their Origins, Histories, Contacts- Department
- CUFA HIST 318 Czech and Central European History
- CUFA HIST 311 Cold War and the Soviet Block: Impacts for Eastern Europe and World
- CUFA HIST 340 Conflicting Identities: The Influence of "Germany" over Central Europe (from the Middle Ages to 1945)
- CUFA HIST 302 Jewish History in Central and Eastern Europe

## **Sociology and Psychology**

- PSY 321 Language, Culture and Social Cognition
- CUFA PSY 349 Introduction to Philosophy of Psychiatry
- CUFA PSY 321 Language, Culture, and Social Cognition
- CUFA PSY 355 Selected Topics of Social Psychology: Soft Skills
- CUFA SOC 345 Contemporary Czech Art, Culture, and Literature: Urban Semiotics
- CUFA SOC 300 Sociology of Food
- CUFA SOC 354 Social Changes after 1989 - Department
- CUFA PSY 349 Introduction to Philosophy of Psychiatry
- CUFA SOC 353 Landscape and Sociology: Understanding of Czech and European Landscapes- Department
- CUFA PSY 355 Selected Topics of Social Psychology: Soft Skills

## **Economics and Politics**

- CUFA ECON 303 Transition Process of the Czech Republic and European Union
- CUFA ECON 305 Global Economy and Crises
- CUFA POL 315 Comparative Politics: Transformation of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic
- CUFA POL 337 Czechoslovakian Dissent under Communist Rule

## Languages

CUFA CZE 102 Czech Language for Everyday Use Level I.

## Course Descriptions

### Literature

#### 1. Romanticism and National Identity in Central Europe

Course

CUFA LIT 339

Code

Instructor

Martin Procházka

Description

For many Central European nations Romanticism was a decisive cultural influence that shaped their emancipation movements in the nineteenth century. Organic models of community based on the affinities between nature, culture and language became the foundation of nationalistic ideologies. The upsurge of nationalism gave birth to grand narratives of national history, and created sharp divides in multilingual and multiethnic societies. The outcome of these developments was a deep and protracted crisis of many Central European nations in the twentieth century, affecting the best works of their cultures.

#### 2. American and Czech Literature from European Perspectives: Identity and Role Play

Course

CUFA LIT 326

Code

Instructor

Ondřej Galuška

Description

The term "identity" is essential for any exploration of society, the self and its various roles in literature and culture. However, it is difficult to pin down exactly what we mean by "identity." As a way of tackling this tricky problem, we will question various conceptions of identity in connection with the selected literary examples. We will examine the way in which identity is construed in the 20th and 21st century. Is identity only a performance or role play? Or is there an authentic, inner core to which we can refer? How do we approach the Other? In the course, we will read and compare American and Czech authors from Melville to Kundera. European obsession with construction, existence and structuring will be contrasted with the American focus on transformation, movement and change. Among the specific topics that will be covered are: formations of identity, power, confidence, racial and gender stereotypes, "minority" vs. "mainstream" literature in Czech and American societies.

#### 3. Great European Writers: The Life and Work of Karel Capek

Course

CUFA LIT 346

Code

Instructor

Šárka Tobrmanová

Description Karel Čapek (1890-1938), one of the great European writers of the last century and arguably the best Czech writer of all time, was a distinguished novelist, playwright and journalist in pre-war Czechoslovakia. Famed for giving the word ‘robot’ to the world (having used it in his play RUR), Čapek was a vital part of the burgeoning artistic scene of the 1920s and 30s. An unfaltering advocate of humanism and democracy, he warned against nationalism and communism as early as the 1920s, and campaigned against fascism, which precipitated his death in 1938. He was a phenomenal journalist whose views are particularly relevant to our time and Europe. It was in his witty, highly enjoyable columns and essays that he communicated his essential ideas. This course serves as an introduction to his varied oeuvre while offering scope for close analysis of some of his works. It also shows how his journalism is indivisible from his other writings. Students will learn not only about Karel Čapek and his brother and co-writer Josef, who became a celebrated artist, but also about the cultural and political contexts of Czech and European history leading up to the Second World War.

#### **4. Czech Ballads in Comparative Perspective: Between Print and Oral Tradition**

Course CUFA LIT 315  
Code

Instructor Ondřej Skovajsa

Description Centuries-old practice of Czech and Moravian balladry offers a fascinating glimpse into the roots of Central European cultural tradition. Despite significant influence of print and writing in transmission, the traditional ballads were a communal property, passed along mostly orally. Their often enigmatic and harsh subject matter dealt with love, war, religion, domestic crimes, cruel landlords, animism and magic. Unlike their printed – and read – counterpart, the traditional ballad had to pass the test of generations: what was not relevant for social coherence of the community was mercilessly forgotten. During the course, students will observe the development of the “song that tells a story”, focusing on its verbal part, yet keeping track of its musical side as well. After broader survey of Czech traditional balladry, the class will discuss the gradual shift from residually oral to printed discourse, and pay visit to broadside ballads whose Czech format is actually quite small and narrow. The class will then move to “authorized” literary ballads and finish with ballads of Czech rock’n’roll. Students will be gaining relevant interpretative skills and theories to apply to the genre, ranging from oral mnemonics and orality-literacy studies, ballad composition, cultural context and nationalism, to Sigmund Freud’s hermeneutics. The selection of ballads presents a rich network of relationships for possible comparisons. As the class will encounter most traditional ballads merely academically, in print and on YouTube, a visit of Czech traditional music concert or and/or a field-trip should somewhat compensate for this.

#### **5. Imagining America, Imagining Europe**

Course CUFA LIT 340  
Code

Instructor Hana Ulmanová

Description This class operates with the assumption that major literary works are able to shed an often

unexpected and always fascinating light on the “reality” they are dealing with – and the more so, once the author reflects upon that reality from a critical distance, given by e.g. his/her different culture. Thus, the chosen works are not only canonical, but also thematize either Europe, or America (and once they thematize America, certain theoretical concepts that are considered European will be tested on them in a meaningful, relevant fashion). What will hopefully emerge is a deeper understanding of a constructed nature of fiction and possibly also both America and Europe.

On the basis of close reading of the selected texts, we will investigate relevant broader issues (see the actual syllabus below). While the approach and methods are interdisciplinary, the main emphasis of this course is on cultural studies, literary theory (explaining and applying basic literary terms), literary history (both American and European) and literary criticism (analyzing different responses to given works), and, if applicable, also on philosophy, psychology, and sociology. Students will learn how the individual literary works were translated into Czech, and what was lost and gained in each individual translation (no detailed knowledge of Czech required); together, we will trace the main trends in the actual translated texts and in translatology in general. I will also explain how were the chosen titles received in the Czech cultural context (both before and after 1989, both official and popular, and, if relevant, also underground) – and, even more importantly, why. References will be made to other European cultures, too.

With the exception of the first two classes, every class will start with an oral presentation delivered by a student, followed by a minilecture by the teacher, followed by class discussion.

## **6. 20th Century Prague Literature in International Context**

Course  
Code

CUFA LIT 310

Instructor David Vichnar

Description The course aims to cover selected chapters of 20th-century Czech literature as part of the Central- and East-European and Anglo-American contexts, presenting Prague and the literature produced here at the crossroads of multiple languages, traditions, poetic and aesthetic systems. The canonical Czech-writing authors include, among others, Jaroslav Hašek, Karel Čapek, the poetist poets (Nezval, Seifert, Biebl), Bohumil Hrabal, Milan Kundera, Josef Škvorecký, Ivan Blatný, & Václav Havel. The international context is provided by German-writing authors such as Gustav Meyrink, Franz Kafka, & Robert Musil, and the many French and Anglophone poets writing in/about Prague.

The seminar will conclude with an overview of the post-1989 situation, where Prague literature has once again become the locus of lively international exchange and prominent Czech or Prague-based writers (Jáchym Topol, Michal Ajvaz, Tom Stoppard, Tom McCarthy, & Louis Armand) have re-entered into dialogue with other traditions and languages. Discussion of the literary texts is complemented by their historical/theoretical backgrounds, provided by the work of Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari, Martin Esslin, Sigmund Freud, & Angelo Maria Ripellino.

## 7. From Page to Screen: 20th-Century Czech Fiction on Film

Course  
Code CUFA LIT 351

Instructor David Vichnar

Description The course aims to cover selected chapters from 20th-century Czech fiction as source for innovative cinematic adaptation. Some of the greatest texts in 20th-century Czech fiction that have inspired some of the most talented filmmakers of the period will be addressed through a series of interconnected questions: What constitutes a text's "literariness" and how does the linguistic medium of literature get translated into the audio-visual material of film? Is there a particular language to film adaptations of literature? What are the limits of trans-medial transactions, where does "adaptation" give way to original "creation"?

The canonical Czech (and Bohemian-German) authors include, among others, Franz Kafka, Karel Čapek, Vítězslav Nezval, Arnošt Lustig, Bohumil Hrabal, Václav Kaplický, Ladislav Fuš, Milan Kundera, and Václav Havel. Filmmakers covered will include the foundational figures of modern Czech cinema (Otakar Vávra & František Vlácil) and the trailblazers of the Czech New-Wave cinema of the 60s (Jiří Menzel, Juraj Herz, Jan Němec, Jaromil Jireš) as well one important representative of contemporary Czech cinema (Vladimír Michálek). The course will conclude with the one cinematic experiment of none other than Václav Havel.

Discussion of the literary texts and films will be complemented by their historical/theoretical backgrounds, provided by secondary sources in the reading list.

## 8. German-Jewish Literature in Prague

Course  
Code CUFA LIT 320

Instructor Kevin Johnson

Description This course examines literature by Jewish authors who wrote in German and lived in Prague during the first half of the 20th century. A primary goal of the course is to provide an understanding of the political, social, and cultural situation of German-Jewish authors during the interwar period. We will consider the precarious position of the German-Jewish community, which lived in a metaphoric "double ghetto" (as both "German" and Jewish) in Prague, and the various ways that their literary texts navigate issues related to national identity, language, religion, and social integration.

For those already familiar with Kafka, the course will provide crucial background information for a more profound understanding of his works in a broader literary context. In addition, the course covers a few lesser known, yet equally as compelling authors from the period, most of whom were actually more widely renowned than Kafka at the time. The course focuses on the life and work of four authors: Egon Erwin Kisch, Franz Kafka, Hermann Ungar, Ernst Weiss, and Leo Perutz. We will also read several historical studies that will provide socio-cultural background for understanding these primary texts. A few texts on Jewish themes by non-Jewish Prague-German authors will provide further context for our interpretation of the main works under consideration. In addition, we will

read a text from the “last” representative of German-Jewish literature, Lenka Reinerová, from the late 20th century. The first half of the course examines the general socio-cultural context of Jewish life in Prague and considers various shorter literary texts. The second half of the course is dedicated primarily to reading a few short novels and discussing the end of the Jewish and German literary traditions in Prague after World War II and the Holocaust.

## **Art and Culture**

### **1. Czech Culture and Society, Past and Present**

Course Code      CUFA ART 330

Instructor      Jana Bischofová

Description      This course offers insights into Czech society and culture. It is rather a practical guide how to better understand the Czechs. It describes basic characteristics of Czech culture (values, style of communication, customary behaviors, etc.) and shows how they are reflected in many aspects of Czech life which the foreigner encounters.

The course covers two thematic parts:

Part I gives information about specific aspects of Czech life, about Czech values, attitudes and behavior (daily do's and don'ts, behavior in public places, non-verbal communication, taboos, etc.)

Part II presents general ideas on Czech historical, social and cultural contexts, as without taking these factors into consideration it is impossible to form a coherent and encompassing impression.

### **2. Czech Cultural Studies: Official and Unofficial Czech Cultures in the 2nd half of the 20th century**

Course Code      CUFA ART 309

Instructor      Kateřina Březinová

Description      The main objective of this course is to discuss and trace the intricate relation among culture, politics and society in the region of Central and Eastern Europe by delving specifically into Czech multilayered cultural expression in the second half of the 20th century: from the works of art sanctioned by the communist regime to those marginalized by it or born in the exile.

While we will primarily focus on the manifestations and significance of Czech official and unofficial cultures in a totalitarian society, we will also inquire into what the social and cultural legacy of these expressions has been after the transition to democracy, and how they are reflected in contemporary cultural and intellectual discourse today.

The course will examine these issues in a transversal, multi-disciplinary way. In addition to traditional lecturing and required readings, we will also watch films and documentaries from and about the period, analyze independent photographs and propaganda posters, listen to pro- and anti-communist songs and read works of fiction written and distributed in spite of tough regime censorship. Where appropriate, we will take site visits within Prague to take advantage of persons, events or institutions that might enhance students' understanding of the course, i.e. Libri Prohibiti Library; Václav Havel library; The

Institute for Studying Totalitarian Regimes, etc.

### **3. Surrealism and Eastern and Central European Cinema- Department**

Course  
Code CUFA F 365

Instructor Richard Capes

Description What is the relationship between surrealism and cinema? How has this relationship changed since the surrealist movement first emerged in the early 1920s? And what makes a particular film or film maker surrealist? These are some of the key questions explored in Surrealism and Eastern and Central European Cinema, a course that aims to chart the history of surrealist filmmaking, with a focus on surrealist films produced in Eastern and central Europe from the mid-1960s to the present day. Students will develop an in-depth understanding of key concepts related to surrealism, which they will use to analyse and evaluate a variety of surrealist films, such as Juraj Herz's *The Cremator* (1969), Jan Švankmajer's *Alice* (1988), and Béla Tarr's *Werckmeister Harmonies* (2000). In addition, they will also examine the influence of central and Eastern European surrealist films on filmmakers from outside the region, such as David Lynch (*Blue Velvet* [1986]) and the Quay brothers (*Institute Benjamenta* [1995]).

The course consists of two seminars a week (one of 90-minutes; the other, of 105-minutes) and a film screening (film times vary).

### **5. Czech Culture and Civilization Course: A Field Trip into the Czech Psyche**

Course  
Code CUFA HIST/POL/ART303

Instructor Ivana Doležalová

Description This interdisciplinary course is designed as a unique insight into Czech/Slovak history, politics and arts, and should provide the students with serious data and information as well as with a “lighter” reflection on certain specifics of the country's development in the heart of Europe.

Students will not be limited to listening to lectures and attending screenings in classrooms, but rather, they should understand that Prague and other locations in the Czech Republic will give them a rare opportunity to study and form their own opinion in public spaces all over the country.

Learning through interactive seminars, visual arts and top-quality documentaries will enable the participants to gain an interesting experience on all levels.

The course is divided into thirteen weekly sessions, 180 minutes each. Students will write four short mini-essays after each of the larger blocks as per the detailed syllabus below, and a final test.

The course is open to students of history, sociology, political science, literature and visual arts as well as to anyone who is interested, eager to learn and has an open mind.

### **6. Czech and Slovak Cinema from the 1950's to Present: Politics, Visuality, and Experimentation - Department**

Course CUFA F 368

Code

Instructor Nicholas Hudáč

Description Bounded by the Germanic Empires to the West, the Russian Empire and Soviet Union to the East, Hungary and the former Ottoman holdings to the South, the Czech and Slovak lands have long been a site of conflict and creation. This course will explore the incredibly rich cinematic tradition of thought provoking and entertaining films produced in the areas of the Czech Republic (the primary area of focus), and Slovakia from the years following World War II up until the beginning of the 21st century. In addition to watching films, we will also be discussing cinema theory and approaches to “reading” films, not only as movies, but also as multi-faceted cultural artifacts. To this end, our readings will contain primary source materials on cinema history, historical research, film theory, and literature intended to broaden our understanding of Czech and Slovak culture, cinematic and otherwise.

While this syllabus gives a fairly accurate portrayal of the material we will cover, additional material may be assigned (and assigned material may be dropped or altered) at any time as the semester progresses, in order to better suit the needs and interests of the class.

## **7. Art and Photography and Genius Loci**

Course CUFA ART 321  
Code

Instructor Jan Starý

Description Students are expected to:

- Use a digital camera that has a "Manual Settings" option for class assignments (cameras are not provided by the university, each student has to bring his or her own; no cell-phone cameras). No special technical expertise is required except a basic image-editing skills. The technical quality of the working images made for the class will constitute the merit for student's credits for the finals, and will be a part of the overall student's assessment.
- Have an elementary knowledge of photographic terms and the history of photography. A general knowledge of major artists' work and trends helps and is welcomed. However, a genuine passion for art and specifically for the photographic art form (be it just based on a single encounter with a particular photographer and his/her work) is far the most important prerequisite. The course is conceived as a passionate invitation to a collective exploration of and adventure in photography rather than a dry academic analysis of history, facts, and all-time truisms.

## **8. Czech and European Art and Architecture- Section II**

Course CUFA ART 301  
Code

Instructor Josef Záruba

Description The course provides a general overview of the Fine Arts development in Europe with a special focus on Central Europe and monuments in Prague. The course covers the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods, up to Modernism and the Contemporary art scene. Special attention will be paid to the unique characteristics and developments of art

(e.g. Prague Castle, Baroque churches, Czech cubism), and to the most glorious periods in the history of Czech Lands (era of Charles IV, Rudolf II).

Certain particular pieces of art that represent the époque or style will be presented and we will analyze the details, historical context, iconography and formal qualities that represent the individual style. The course will also focus on selective facts on important artists and movements that illustrate typical features of a certain time period. By studying detailed information about a particular piece, the student will obtain a good insight to the history of Fine Arts as an academic discipline.

The class is divided into two parts; a lecture in the classroom and a field trip to a local museum or other monuments or buildings in Prague. Students will be encouraged to apply their knowledge – e.g. date the piece; describe the iconography, discover important details, guess the original purpose of the object, and recognize its modifications and later additions.

## **9. The Cinema of Central Europe: Eroticism, Power, and Fate**

Course  
Code CUFA F 340

Instructor Kevin Johnson

Description This course provides an overview of the cinematic traditions in Central Europe in historical and political context, with specific focus on the themes of eroticism, power, and fate in these films. This course examines a series of films from Central Europe (including present day Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia) from the silent era until the present day. Primary areas of focus are: the pre-WWII period, the various “New Waves” of the 1960s and 1970s, and the developments after 1989. Beginning with the assumption that eroticism, power, and fate are somehow interrelated, the course addresses how each film approaches this thematic constellation and how cinematic treatment of these themes has developed over time and throughout the region. In this analysis, consideration is given to the broader social, political, economic, and cultural contexts (both nationally and between nations) in which the films were made as well as the impact of these films within “Central Europe.” Since no previous experience in film studies is assumed, the first few sessions will also function as an introduction to reading and interpreting films. To this end the course reader is also supplemented with recommended texts that offer an overview of relevant aspects of film theory and analysis. Throughout the course we will also touch on various elements of film theory and modes of film analysis.

## **History**

### **1. A Failed State? Czechoslovakia 1918-1993**

Course  
Code CUFA HIST 330

Instructor Felix Jeschke

Description The history of Czechoslovakia is symptomatic of the history of Europe in the twentieth century. Created out of the remnants of the Habsburg Empire in 1918, it reproduced many of its problems. It was dismembered by Nazi Germany in 1938/39 and under Nazi rule,

most Jews and many Roma were deported to concentration camps and murdered. The country was reconstituted in 1945 and the first three tense post-war years saw the violent expulsion of the country's Germans and Hungarians. Czechoslovakia was taken over by a communist government that ruled with a tight fist until 1989, despite the 'Prague Spring' of 1968. Three years after the 'Velvet Revolution', Czechoslovakia was split into the Czech and Slovak Republics. In a recent history of the country, historian Mary Heimann controversially characterized Czechoslovakia as a failed state. Using this contention as a starting point, the course provides an overview of the history of Czechoslovakia. It will focus on political developments and regime changes, but also touch on the cultural and social developments that influenced politics

## **2. The Peoples of Europe: Their Origins, Histories, Contacts- Department**

Course  
Code CUFA HIST 312

Instructor Jiří Rejzek

Description The course focuses on the processes and events that have been making the ethnical and political borders of Europe since the arrival of Indo-Europeans until present times. It follows the formations, expansions and differentiations of the Celtic, Germanic, Romance, Slavic and other peoples, the formation of medieval nations or changes in the political map of Europe in the last centuries. It also explains how and when peoples like Basques, Albanians, Hungarians, Turks appeared in Europe. Due to its comprehensive character, the course is suitable for students interested in history, politics, geography, ethnology or linguistics.

## **3. Czech and Central European History**

Course  
Code CUFA HIST 318

Instructor Petr Svobodný

Description - history of Bohemia and Moravia (historically the Lands of the Bohemian Crown, today the Czech Republic) since primeval times till present  
- history of the peoples in this territory (ancient cultures, Celts, Germanic tribes, Slavonic tribes, Czechs, Germans, Jews, Slovaks, Gypsies, other minorities...)  
- broad geographical context (the Czech Lands – Central Europe – Europe...)  
- broad thematic context (political, social, cultural history...)

## **4. Cold War and the Soviet Block: Impacts for Eastern Europe and World**

Course  
Code CUFA HIST 311

Instructor Stanislav Tumis

Description The course deals, particularly, with the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and East-European countries during times of the so called Cold war. It analyses the development of international relations with special emphasis on Eastern Europe. It focuses on basic and forming milestones of the Soviet foreign policy, its principles, strategies and direction. The great emphasis will be given primarily to the rivalry of the Eastern and Western

countries during the Cold war (the lectures will be devoted also to the foreign policy of the Soviet satellites) but there will be also space for analysis of relations among the Soviet Union (Soviet block) and Middle East, Near Asia, Far East, Africa, Latin America, China and others. The course will concentrate also on the key assumptions of the Soviet foreign policy, such as ideology, propaganda, viewing of others etc. It contains two parts: lecture (2x45 minutes per week) and seminar (2x45 minutes per week). Lectures will offer key information to the topic while seminars will develop acquired knowledge through discussions, examples, presentations, projections etc.

## **5. Conflicting Identities: The Influence of "Germany" over Central Europe (from the Middle Ages to 1945)**

Course  
Code CUFA HIST 340

Instructor Gaelle Vassogne

Description The course focuses on the history of Central Europe through the perspective of German influence. It will shed light on complicated and controversial notions such as "Central Europe", "Germany", and "Mitteleuropa" as well as "nationalism", the "nation state", and "multinational states". The course is divided into three main units which follow the chronology and reflect the evolution in the meaning of the "German" as well as the changing nature of its interactions with the non-German elements in Central Europe:

- The Habsburgs and their assertion of control over the majority of Central Europe, thereby placing its population under German rule (from the Middle Ages to the end of the 18th century)
- The Age of Nationalism, the development of specific central European identities and political strategies against German rules(s) and the resulting modification of the European map after World War I.
- The German "Mitteleuropa", the weak democracies of Central Europe and the growing threat of German revisionism for the non-German states and population in Central Europe.

Added emphasis will be placed on the role played by the Jews in shaping the history and culture of Central Europe and on their relations with the other Central European peoples.

## **6. Jewish History in Central and Eastern Europe**

Course  
Code CUFA HIST 302

Instructor Gaelle Vassogne

Description The course focuses on Jewish history in Central and Eastern Europe with an emphasis on the 19th and 20th century. The primary goals of the course are to study the political, cultural and economic situation of the Jews in Central and Eastern Europe and analyze the different forms of Jewish cultural and political identity. In the analysis, special attention will be paid to the history of Central and Eastern European countries at the beginning of the 20th century.

## **Sociology and Psychology**

### **1. Language, Culture and Social Cognition**

Course  
Code           PSY 321

Instructor   Eva Filippová

Description   The course introduces students to selected topics centered on the relationship among social cognition (i.e., folk psychology, theory of mind), language and culture. In spite of its cross-disciplinary scope, its chief focus is on questions of human development. It is designed both for students in arts and the sciences and will be run as a combination of lectures and seminars. The lectures will be closely tied to the readings but will often go beyond them. The seminars offer an opportunity to discuss the readings in detail and to raise questions arising from both the readings and lectures.

### **2. Introduction to Philosophy of Psychiatry**

Course  
Code           CUFA PSY 349

Instructor   Allan McKenna

Description   The World Health Organisation (W.H.O.) estimates that mental disorders affect one in every four people at some point in our lives. But what is “mental health” and what exactly do these statistics represent? Our course introduces the major questions, controversies, and debates in the Philosophy of Psychiatry. The problems of psychiatric classification serve as focal point for inter-related problems in philosophy of mind, psychology, and science. We will sensitively examine complex issues in light of both facts and values. Although no previous formal experience with philosophy is required there may be some challenging readings and it is expected that the student will bring an open mind and a willingness to ask questions. This course is particularly suitable for students who like to engage in discussions, cross-disciplinary dialogue and independent research.

### **3. Language, Culture, and Social Cognition**

Course  
Code           CUFA PSY 321

Instructor   Eva Filippová

Description   The course introduces students to selected topics centered on the relationship among social cognition (i.e., folk psychology, theory of mind), language and culture. In spite of its cross-disciplinary scope, its chief focus is on questions of human development. It is designed both for students in arts and the sciences and will be run as a combination of lectures and seminars. The lectures will be closely tied to the readings but will often go beyond them. The seminars offer an opportunity to discuss the readings in detail and to raise questions arising from both the readings and lectures.

#### **4. Contemporary Czech Art, Culture, and Literature: Urban Semiotics**

Course  
Code CUFA SOC 345

Instructor Blanka Maderová

Description The course will acquaint students with contemporary Czech society and art, their “roots” and transformations from three different perspectives. First, the course will pursue how Czech art and music are connected with activism, minority groups and mainstream culture. Second, focus will be placed on how to “read” contemporary urban performances, literature and music from a sociological and semiotic perspective (i.e. art as social life). We will ask: How and why do performances address and fascinate their readers? What value-hierarchies and culture-changing signs do they produce? Third, the course will familiarize students with the notions of performance art, digital media, counterculture, mass culture, and show their impact on Czech individuals and society. The course will elucidate the transitions in Czech art scene after 1989, together with their socio-historical context. It will explore different understandings of post-communist movements as represented in the performances and works by Czech artists and thinkers. Czech perspectives will be confronted with Western social and literary criticism.  
Lecturer: Blanka Maderová, PhD  
Guests: Radim Labuda, Toybox, Pavla Jonnsonova, Darina Alster

#### **5. Sociology of Food**

Course  
Code CUFA SOC 300

Instructor Blanka Maderová

Description Eating is a natural necessity for almost all human beings. Food, however, does more than just help humans survive and grow. It can become a political tool, a marker of social class and gender, a mirror of significant cultural differences. On a more individual scale, it can be related to personal identity, habits and health. As our perspective in this course is sociological and semiotical, we shall look at food both as a source of embodied experience, and as a language that can be decoded. It is a symbolic system that reflects the everyday habits of humans, norms of societies, as well as deeper, internalized meanings. Food will thus become a lens through which we will see and analyse our different cultures in a new light. We will ask questions such as: What is the place of origin of our food? How did our food get to us? How does food configure and change relations among people? During our comparisons and practical workshops, we shall trace the histories of some of the most significant meals of the Czech republic (and former Austro-Hungarian empire). Their transformations will help us understand the social changes that took place in Central Europe from a different perspective. Questions such as gender relations, families, political economy, health (obesity, anorexia, bio food), ecology and the nation-state will be discussed. We will read academic articles that react on these questions in various national and ethnic contexts.

There will be 3 workshops where students will try to cook several Central European meals and discuss them with a Czech chef.

## **6. Social Changes after 1989 - Department**

Course  
Code CUFA SOC 354

Instructor Jan Sládek

Description The aim of the course is to overview social change in the Czech Republic. After a short introduction to the historical and social development (1918-1989) and basic comparison to other CEE countries, the course focuses on basic perspectives on social change (“shock therapy vs. gradualism”) and then deals with the changes in economic and social structure and political attitudes in general. To provide a deeper insight into the development, the transformation of housing and higher education system is presented in detail. The seminars consist of discussing short texts or relevant topics (covered in lectures), watching documentaries and presentations of students. However, the main output is a paper that students have to develop and write on a topic of their choice. Depending on the availability, relevant cultural events (i.e. exhibitions) are included as well.

## **7. Introduction to Philosophy of Psychiatry**

Course  
Code CUFA PSY 349

Instructor Allan McKenna

Description The World Health Organisation (W.H.O.) estimates that mental disorders affect one in every four people at some point in our lives. But what is “mental health” and what exactly do these statistics represent? Our course introduces the major questions, controversies, and debates in the Philosophy of Psychiatry. The problems of psychiatric classification serve as focal point for inter-related problems in philosophy of mind, psychology, and science. We will sensitively examine complex issues in light of both facts and values. Although no previous formal experience with philosophy is required there may be some challenging readings and it is expected that the student will bring an open mind and a willingness to ask questions. This course is particularly suitable for students who like to engage in discussions, cross-disciplinary dialogue and independent research.

## **8. Landscape and Sociology: Understanding of Czech and European Landscapes- Department**

Course  
Code CUFA SOC 353

Instructor Miloslav Lapka

Description The connections between society and the landscape go beyond descriptive sociological perspectives of biophysical landscapes. Holistically, landscape sociology incorporates philosophical, cultural, anthropological and ecological interactions between man and nature, and between social and ecological systems. European, and particularly Czech, landscapes represent ecological as well as sociocultural heritages. Human experiences with landscapes, social and cultural constructions and transformations of landscapes, and the ways in which we bring meaning to landscapes are the main topics of this course.

A primary aim of landscape sociology is to show landscape both as a geo-ecological phenomenon and as a sociocultural construction. The development of basic knowledge of

ecological and cultural constructions of the Czech and European landscapes thus requires us to discuss a range of topics, including contemporary environmental and ecological issues, globalization and the landscape, and orientations in pan-European landscape typology based on the integration of landscape formation actors as a regionally differentiated geography, morphology and scenery on the one hand and regional culture, habits and history on the other.

Landscape Sociology usually focuses on the interaction of social groups (represented largely by rural communities and urban environmentalists) and the complex of the environment constructed as the “landscape” on the macro-level. In this course, an overall objective and context for our lectures is the movement away from productivity as the sole or dominant mode of conceiving the value of rural landscapes, and the movement towards ideas about how to achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability.

## **9. Selected Topics of Social Psychology: Soft Skills**

Course      CUFA PSY 355  
Code

Instructor    Jan Froněk

Description    Soft skills have got a great impact on our success and satisfaction in life. The concept of soft skills consists of both intra-personal and inter-personal aspects. This course presents a well-balanced practical overview of the soft skills world.

The content will be adapted according to the students, possible topics are:

- Social perception, stereotyping, prejudices.
- Effective communication principles.
- Coaching.
- Self-management.
- Presentation skills.
- Assertiveness and manipulation recognition.
- Resolving conflicts.
- Teamwork, group problem solving.
- Stress management.
- Authenticity, values.
- Creativity.

Self experience is one of the most important outcomes of this seminar and therefore active learning methods will be used in every session (discussion, role-play, simulations, exercises, art, reflective journal, peer counselling, etc.). The whole class is more practice-oriented than theory oriented.

## **Economics and Politics**

### **1. Transition Process of the Czech Republic and European Union**

Course      CUFA ECON 303

Code

Instructor Pavel Hnát , Ondřej Sankot

Description Recent Economic Development in Europe has been markedly influenced by two major factors: by the process of European Integration and by the Transition Process in Central and Eastern Europe. However the European Union tries to integrate European Economies into a single market, economic systems of European countries markedly differ. The economic systems comparison is thus another aim of the course.

The course comprises of three blocks:

- 1) Transformation process: basic features of CPE, pillars of transformation, basic steps of transformation, outcomes of the transformation process
- 2) European integration: history, institutions, policies, enlargement
- 3) Recent economic development of the European countries: economic development, indicators of economic policies, coping with the financial crisis, outlook

## **2. Global Economy and Crises**

Course  
Code CUFA ECON 305

Instructor Pavel Hnát , Ondřej Sankot

Description This course combines application of International Economics and International Political Economy to the processes of globalisation and current economic downturn. It explores different ways in which current globalisation changes the position of different actors of the Global Economic System as well as the balance between state and market and their interactions. The course focuses on analysis of historical and contemporary issues in the Global Economic Order both in theoretical and applied perspective. Important part of the course focuses on comparative perspectives both in the form of Comparison of Economic Systems and of comparison of past major world economic crises. The course is divided into three main parts. The first part seeks to provide students with an introduction and comparison of the principal actors of current global economy. States and their regional integrations (RTAs), international organization (e.g. UN, WTO, IMF, WB), and TNCs will be introduced and analysed in comparative perspective. Second part provides students with the long-term trends of the global economy, i.e. with globalisation, global mobility of goods, services, capital and labour as well as with comparative analysis of past crises. Globalisation's influence on balances within global governance system will be stressed. Third part describes the causes and consequences of the current economic crisis as well as the current reaction on different levels of the global and economic governance (states, G20, IMF, WTO). Changing balance between states and other actors of the global economy (TNCs, RTAs, international organizations) should be another main outcome of this part.

## **3. Comparative Politics: Transformation of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic**

Course  
Code CUFA POL 315

Instructor Jiří Koubek

Description Sharing the same geopolitical position within the East Bloc, the individual cases - i.e. Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and others - differed significantly, however, in their respective points of departure, as well as in political institutional solutions chosen in course of their transitions. This comparative aspect will be studied with special focus. Students will be also encouraged to challenge the mainstream understanding of “transition” as a predictable, gradual and irreversible progress towards the standard “Western” model. The course is designed as a seminar based on a guided discussion about carefully selected texts collected in a reader; active participation of the students is essential.

#### 4. Czechoslovakian Dissent under Communist Rule

Course Code CUFA POL 337

Instructor Robin Ujfalusi

Description The aim of this course is to give an overview about relevant figures, events and texts of the independent political thinking in the communist Czechoslovakia, based on reading and discussing original articles and documents (in English translations). This will include political debates during the Prague Spring, the dissident movement and its political thinking in 70's and 80's, as well as a few representative articles from the early 90's.

There will be two main elements, reducing this wide topic into a reasonable range. One of them is Václav Havel, an extraordinarily instructive (not just attractive) figure within the Czech(oslovakian) politics of last four decades. Secondly, we will deal repeatedly with certain basic political concepts which seem to be clear at the first sight, but which cover up essentially different aspects when used by various authors (such as „socialism“, „democracy“, „politics“ and others). Thus, we will apply an interdisciplinary approach, which combines the analysis of political ideologies, historical context and of the language/rhetoric within public debates.



Professor Josef Zaruba  
(Czech and European Art and Architecture)

lectures at a local museum in Prague.

## **Courses**

Program offers courses in six different academic fields: literature, art and culture, history, sociology and psychology, economics and politics, and languages. In addition to ECES courses, students may also take Faculty of Arts departmental courses.

## **Credits**

Courses are worth 3 U.S. credits or 6 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits.

## **Course Load**

Students are encouraged to take four to six courses a semester plus the intensive Czech course for a maximum of 21 credits. Students may take up to four courses in the summer term. Courses are taught in English.

## **Course Schedule**

Courses are taught Monday through Thursday and meet either once (180 minutes) or twice (90 minutes each) a week. Courses are taught between the hours of 9:00am to 9:00pm.

## **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory for all courses and counts toward the final grade. Each student is allowed to miss 180 minutes, or three hours, worth of class time per course. Absences may be excused if a medical note is provided. For each additional unexcused absence, the final grade will be reduced automatically (eg. A to A - or A to B).

## **Grades**

Grading is based on the letter grade system from A to F. Grades are based on course attendance, participation, and additional factors according to the professor and course. Completing the final test or paper is also a required component. Failure to submit the final test or paper according to the deadline will result in a letter grade F for the entire course. Except for the pre-semester Introductory Czech Language and Culture Course, program does not provide courses with pass/fail or withdrawal grades.