

**Charles University, Faculty of Arts  
East and Central European Studies**

Summer 2016

**Literature of Central European Cafés**

CUFA LIT 324

**Instructor:** Martina Moravcová  
**Telephone:** +420602326613  
**Email:** [mmoravcova@email.cz](mailto:mmoravcova@email.cz)  
**Office hours:** by appointment  
**Classes:** Tue, Wed, Thu 12.00 – 2.45, J1 (Jindřišská 27, Prague 1)

**Course Description**

This course aims to introduce students to the coffee house culture and related literary and artistic life in three cities – Budapest, Prague and Vienna. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup>, and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, coffee houses and literary modernism grew into an inseparable entity. Under specific social and economical conditions, coffee houses became places of meeting and intellectual exchange.

**Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

Assigned readings – mostly shorter texts – will always be related to several renown coffee houses in the above mentioned cities. We will visit some of these places and try to track their history, dating back to the final days of Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Also, we will try to find out if this specific Central European (sub)culture was partially restored after the changes in 1989.

**Required Readings**

Havel, Václav: *Three Vaněk Plays*, Faber & Faber, 1990  
Kafka, Franz: *A Country Doctor*, Twisted Spoon Press, 1997  
Kafka, Franz: *Letters to Milena*, Vintage, 1999  
Roth, Joseph: *The Emperor's Tomb*, Granta Books, 1999  
Segel, Harold: *The Vienna Coffehouse Wits, 1890-1938*, Purdue University Press, 1993  
Torok, Andras: *Guidebook to Budapest – a Critical Guide*, Park konyvkiado, 2007  
Zweig, Stefan: *The World of Yesterday*, University of Nebraska Press, 1964  
*Course package.*

**Recommended Readings**

Bendová, Eva: *Pražské kavárny a jejich svět*, Paseka, Prague, 2008  
Holub, Karel: *Grand Café Slavia*, nakladatelství Jan Hovorka, 1998  
Fiala, Václav: *Videň – literární toulky dunajskou metropolí*, ASPI Publishing, Prague, 2004  
Hofmann, Paul: *The Viennese Splendor, Twilight and Exile*, Doubleday, 1988

Zeke, Gyula: *Kavezok kalauza*, Enciklopedia kiado, 2005

### **Classroom Procedures**

Active participation, regular attendance, and timely arrivals are considered a necessary prerequisite for successful completion of the course. Students are asked to keep their cell phones off during the class. Film screenings and visits to related exhibitions are an integral part of this course and thus compulsory.

### **Assignments and Grading Policy**

Grades based on letters A through F will be given.

Participation	25 %
Final Test	25 %
Final Essay	50 %

### **Attendance**

Regular and punctual class attendance is mandatory for all students. Absence of 180 minutes is allowed. Three or more absences (90 minutes each) lower the grade automatically (A to A-, A to B+ in case of 4 absences etc.). Students must attend at least 70 % of the course. If a student attends less than 70 % of the class meetings, he or she will receive the final grade 'F' on their transcript.

Presentation Policy: Missing the presentation will result in an F (when applicable). If the student wants to switch the date, he/she must find someone to do it and both students must confirm the change in e-mails to the professor at least 10 days in advance. If the student is sick and has a medical note, then the professor must agree with the student on how the work will be made up for.

Final Test or Paper Policy: Completing the final test or paper is required. Failure to submit the final test or paper according to the deadline will result in a letter grade F for the entire course.

For further details, please see the Attendance Policy at the ECES website under "Academic Policies and Procedures": <http://eces.ff.cuni.cz/>.

### **Student Responsibility and Code of Conduct**

Standards of study and conduct in the ECES Program are set and maintained. You are subject to the general standards and requirements of Charles University in regard to attendance, examinations, and conduct, as well as to specific requirements of the program. The student is expected to assume the initiative in completing all requirements at the time specified.

It is the responsibility of the student to be informed concerning all regulations and procedures required. In no case will a regulation be waived or an exception granted because a student pleads ignorance of the regulation or asserts that he/she was not informed by an advisor or other authority.

Charles University expects all students to adhere to the highest standards of ethics and academic integrity. Students certify that all work (whether an examination, research paper, research project, form of creative expression, or any other academic undertaking) submitted for evaluation, presentation, or publication meets these standards.

All forms of academic fraud are strictly prohibited. An automatic grade of F will result for the entire course if a student is found guilty of academic misconduct. These include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism
- Cheating
- Falsification
- Violation of professional ethics
- Misrepresentation or research data

## Weekly Schedule

### Week 1

Café Slavia

Reading from the course package – Jaroslav Seifert, Jiří Wolker, Jiří Kolář, Václav Havel  
Václav Havel: *Audience, Unveiling*

### Week 2

Café Arco

Reading from the course package – articles by Milena Jesenská  
Franz Kafka: *A Country Doctor and Other Short Stories*  
Franz Kafka: *Letters to Milena*

### Week 3

Cafés Griensteidl, Central and Herrenhof

Reading from the course package – Karl Kraus, Peter Altenberg, Alfred Polgar, Hermann Bahr, Anton Kuh  
Joseph Roth: *The Emperor's Tomb*  
Stephan Zweig: *The World of Yesterday*

### Week 4

Cafés Central and New York

Readings from the course package – Péter Esterházy, Péter Nádas  
Films: *Mefisto*, *Witness*  
Final test : last day of class, in-class written exam, 3 questions

*The schedule is subject to change, notice will be given ahead in time.*

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