

The Architecture of Prague : A Subjective Survey Prague Summer Seminars 2016

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Course Description

This course explores the architecture of Prague from the 10th century to today. The emphasis is on the subjective experience of place in understanding the architecture of Prague. Using the city of Prague as our primary classroom this class will investigate the various examples of historical styles present in the city. We will analyze how such elements as the qualities of the materials, the play of light and shadow, proportion and scale, the choice of structural systems and the attention to context, all work together to inform our experience of the architectural environment. These elements, the ideas behind them, and how they have been approached historically will be presented and examined through walking tours, slide lectures, class discussions, readings and group projects.

Student Learning Objectives

At the end of this course students will have learned the basics of the various architectural styles through first-hand exploration. An overview of the tectonic developments and introduction to the ideas of each era should provide students with an understanding of the history of the architectural styles from Romanesque through Contemporary. Through the subjective approach students should develop a personal grasp and comprehension of the historical settings they will experience in Prague.

Student Assignments

In this course students will work individually and in small groups to analyze the various examples of architecture we visit on our excursions. They will present their findings in class discussions and presentations.

Students will also work in small groups to research various historical styles and present these to the class in comprehensive audio/visual presentations.

For the final, student groups will present the highlights of their subjective experience of Prague in brief, creative presentations in any approved format.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Excursion Assignments – 3 @ 10%

Historical Presentations – 2 @ 20%

Final Presentations - 20%

Class Participation - 10%

Class Participation

Class participation implies active involvement in the class. 10% of the final grade will be based on attendance, completion of readings and participation in discussions.

Grading Standard

Grading standard: A 90-100; B 80-89; C 70-79; D 60-69; F 0-59.

Required texts:

Italo Calvino Invisible Cities

Steen Eller Rasmussen Experiencing Architecture

Note on texts. *Experiencing Architecture*, by Steen Eiler Rasmussen, tells how to look at the built environment, *Invisible Cities*, by Italo Calvino, tells ways to think about what you have experienced.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory for all classes and cultural series events that take place on Wednesday evenings. Each absence will reduce the student's final grade by five (5) points. All absences are unexcused, unless a medical report is provided. A five-minute grace period is allowed before a student is marked "late." (Leaving the class early will be considered a "late," as well.) Three "lates" make up one absence. After five absences the student will fail the class.

Statement on Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/accountability.cfm>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services. Please visit: <http://ods.uno.edu/>

Classroom conduct:

Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. Courteous behavior and responses are expected.

No form of harassment (verbal, sexual, or physical) will be allowed.