

HIST 4991 From Habsburgs to Havel: Introduction into the History of Czech Lands in the 20th Century (Summer 2016) Syllabus

Time of the course: Monday-Thursday, Time Period 1

Instructor: Pavel Szobi, Ph.D., pavel.szobi@vse.cz, office hours Monday-Thursday after the classes in the Summer Seminars office

Aims of the course:

The course is designed for foreign students and is supposed to be an introduction to the history and culture of the Czech lands. The aim of this course is an overall summary of the most memorable moments in Czech political, economic, and cultural history.

Learning outcomes and competences:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to understand specifics of Czech political and economic development, as well as cultural life.

Attendance policy:

The attendance of all classes is obligatory with the exception of serious health issues. 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 "late-s" 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 Student Code of Conduct for further information.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.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.

Course contents:

1st lecture (7/7/2016)

The Long 19th Century. Czech fight for national recognition and autonomy in the Habsburg Empire.

2nd lecture (7/8/2016)

Political parties and organizations, Czech intellectuals. Roots of the “German complex”. Industrial revolution in the Czech Lands. Technological inventions, Czech scientists and businessmen, industrial companies, banking. Czech culture before 1918. Golden age of Czech music. Literature and Architecture.

Reading: Legend of Saint Wenceslas

3rd lecture (7/11/2016)

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AT THE VITKOV MOUNTAIN

World War One and its impact on the changes within the Habsburg Empire. Czech political activism during the war years and founding of the Czechoslovak Republic.

4th lecture (7/12/2016)

FIELD LECTURE (meeting in front of the University building at 9 am): Discussion during the tour: Czech + Slovaks = Czechoslovaks? Ideas of Czechoslovakism and its results

Reading: Jan Rychlík, Czech History - Communism only postponed Czechoslovakia's end

5th lecture (7/13/2016)

Political and Economic stabilization of the Czechoslovak state. Nostrification process, currency reform, land reform, Gent system. The Golden 1920's.

6th lecture (7/14/2016)

MUSEUM OF PRAGUE, 3D MOVIE ABOUT MEDIEVAL PRAGUE (meeting at metro station FLORENC at 9 am)

7th lecture (7/18/2016)

Economic crisis and the opposition of Czechoslovakia against the growing German hegemony.

Reading: Terje Englund, Czechs and Germans

8th lecture (7/19/2016)

Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia, Slovak Republic during the years 1939-1945. Movie presentation: “Shop on the main street”

9th lecture (7/20/2016)

MUSEUM OF “STAROPRAMEN” BREWERY, DEGUSTATION, METRO STATION “ANĎĚL-MOSKEVSKÁ”

10th lecture (7/25/2016)

Short existence of the Third Republic. Czechoslovakia between West and East before 1948. Expulsion of Germans and Hungarians. Parliamentary election of 1946. First steps toward socialism and a centrally planned economy. “Victorious February” and its aftermath. Creation of the one-party dictatorship. Political trials. Collectivization. Creation of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON). Industrialization of Slovakia. Currency reform of 1953. The horror of

communism. Civil rights, political dissidents, opposition against dictatorship: Movie presentation: "Paper heads"

11th lecture (7/26/2016)

The road to the Prague Spring. Constitution of 1960. Liberalization of international relations and travel. Economic reforms of Kurt Rozsypal and Ota Šik. Political changes after January 1968. Invasion of the Warsaw Pact and its impact on the internal politics up to April 1969.

12th lecture (7/27/2016)

FIELD LECTURE (meeting at metro station MUZEUM at 9 am): Normalization years 1969-1987. "Lessons Drawn From The Crisis Development In The Party And Society". Charter 77 and its Anticharter. State and society under the conditions of a new social contract. Cottage subculture. Economic stagnation and the limits of a socialist consumer society.

13th lecture (7/28/2016)

Reality of the real socialism: Movie presentation: "Panelstory", "Sun, Hay and Strawberries"

14th lecture 8/1/2016)

ANTI-ATOMIC SHELTER: „WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE COLD WAR WOULD HAVE TURNED INTO A HOT ONE“, METRO STATION „MUZEUM“

Soviet Union during the Gorbachev era and Czechoslovak program of "Reconstruction and democratization". Possibilities and limits of reforms in a totalitarian regime. Growing resistance in the population, impact of the development in Poland and Hungary on Czechoslovakia.

15th lecture (8/2/2016)

Velvet Revolution: The way to democracy, privatization and dissolution of the Czechoslovak state.
Reading: The Black Book of Communism: The Complex Management of the Past

The last 30 minutes: "Repetitio"- Summarization and rehearsal of acquired knowledge for the finals

Obligatory reading:

Čornej, P. – Pokorný, J., *A Brief History of the Czech Lands*, Prague 2004

The book will be accessible to the students as a PDF file for free, hard copies are available in the most book stores in Prague (with a price of 10 USD/piece).

Recommended reading:

Cipkowski, P. *Revolution in Eastern Europe: Understanding the Collapse of Communism in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and the Soviet Union*, New York 1991

Dědek, O., *The Break-up of Czechoslovakia: an in-Depth Economic Analysis*, Avebury 1996

Sayer, D., *The Coasts of Bohemia*, Princeton 1998

Englund, E. B. - *The Czechs in a Nutshell*, Prague 2004

Krueger, R. *Czech, German, and Noble: Status and National Identity in Habsburg Bohemia*, Oxford 2009

Recommended Czech authors of fiction

Hašek, J., *The Good Soldier Švejk and His Fortunes in the World War*, recommended edition from the year 2000, ISBN: 0-140-44991-4

Viewegh, M., *Bringing up Girls in Bohemia*, recommended edition from the year 1997, ISBN: 1-887378-05-7

Kundera, M., *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, recommended edition from the year 1999, ISBN: 0-571-20083-4

Recommendend educational and period movies

Power of Good: Nicholas Winton / Nicholas G. Winton - Síla lidskosti

The Shop on Mainstreet / Obchod na korze

The Lost World of Communism: The Kingdom of Forgetting

Paper Heads / Papierové hlavy

Citizen Havel / Občan Havel

Criteria for grading and grading standards

The grading will follow after a final exam. The final exam will consist of two parts: test questions (50 % of all points) and a review (50 % of all points).

The test will include questions from the lectures in the class, field trips and required reading. The review shall be no less than one page long. The review shall be based on a scientific text or historical fiction text (journal paper, legend, fairytale). Before using it for the review, each text has to be proven by the instructor.