

IP_360 EUROPEAN HISTORY AND ITS IMPACT ON CENTRAL EUROPE

6 ECTS/3 US credits

Instructor:

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The course will give the students an outline of the history Czech state and its connections to Central European developments. Attention will be given to the way in which history is reflected in arts and literature, as arts and literature have often contributed significantly to the political life of the region.

A brief outline of the history of art and architecture will present the most important periods and will be supported with slides recommending the students the most significant places of interest in Central Europe.

The course will also show the important role of music in the cultural life of Central European nations.

HISTORY:

1. Various aspects of the concept "Central Europe". Celtic, Germanic and Slavonic heritage. Beginnings of the Czech state.
2. Central Europe and its relations to the Empire in the West. The House of Luxembourg and its dominant role in the Holy Roman Empire. Roman Emperor Charles IV.
3. Reformation in Central Europe: Jan Hus – the reformer before Martin Luther. Religious wars of 15th century and their aftermath. Bohemian king George and his unprecedented peace initiative addressed to all European monarchs.
4. Attempts to integrate Central Europe: decline of royal power in Central Europe under the Polish/Lithuanian dynasty of Jagiello. The dominant role of the House of Habsburg. Catholicism and Protestantism. The Thirty Years' War and defeat of Protestantism in Bohemia in 1620.
5. Problem of exiles and loss of intellectual elite. Comenius – bishop of the *Unitas Fratrum*; famous for his innovations in methods of teaching, esp. languages. His support of Latin to facilitate the study of European culture.
6. French influence: Enlightenment and reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph II.
7. Romanticism and National Revival. Revolutions of 1848 in Europe and reaction. Growth of nationalism and attempts to unify Central Europe. Pan-Slavism.
8. Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and his revolt in exile. Demise of Austrian Empire and establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918. Complicated ethnic relations. German-Jewish group of writers in Prague (Franz Kafka, Franz Werfel, Max Brod).

9. The growth of totalitarian regimes – National Socialism in Germany, communism in the Soviet Union and their expansion in Central Europe. World War II and the fate of Jewish population. The growth of communism. Prague Spring 1968.
10. "Velvet Revolution" in 1989, Václav Havel.

FINE ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE:

11. Romanesque Art. Architecture: rotundas, basilicas, burgher houses. Painting: illuminated manuscripts, mural paintings.
12. Gothic style in architecture, mural and panel painting. "Beautiful style" in painting and sculpture.
13. Renaissance generated a new life style: mansions, country houses. Renaissance towns in Central Europe.
14. Baroque – based on contrasts, principle of absolutism. Artistic dynasties from Italy, Bavaria, and France; cosmopolitan character. Baroque Gothic as a specific element in the architecture of the Czech Lands.
15. 19th century art: the role of arts in national emancipation efforts. End of the century – inspiration from Paris for both classical tradition and impressionism.
16. 20th century art – modernism in architecture, development of arts between the wars. Contemporary trends.

MUSIC (tapes and CDs will be played):

17. Main trends in the development of European music;
18. Reformation encouraged sacred music. Literary fraternities. Music as part of general education;
19. Baroque music in Protestant and Catholic parts of Central Europe;
20. Classical period: fortunate fusion of European developments with typical features of regional musical trends. Imported sacred music and its influence on local tradition – the role of *cantores*. Bohemia as "conservatory of Europe". Mozart in Prague.
21. Music of the 19th century: Smetana and Dvořák.

How to obtain credits:

70% – essay

30% – attendance

Grading scale:

100 - 90	A	Excellent
89 - 75	B	Very Good
74 - 60	C	Good
59 and less	F	Failure

