

## Syllabus for the course

# CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE CZECH LANDS

|                                          |                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Course title:</b>                     | Cultural History of the Czech Lands                                                                |
| <b>Number of ECTS credits allocated:</b> | <b>6</b> (1 ECTS credit = 26 hours of workload)<br><b>3</b> US credits                             |
| <b>Mode of delivery:</b>                 | full-time; 4/0 (hours of lectures per week /<br>hours of seminars per week) as semestral<br>course |
| <b>Mode of completion:</b>               | graded course                                                                                      |
| <b>Prerequisites and co-requisites:</b>  | none                                                                                               |

### Course description:

This course offers an in-depth exploration of the cultural history of the Czech lands, from ancient times to contemporary Czech society. It focuses on the key political, cultural, and social developments that have shaped the region over the centuries.

### Course objectives:

By taking this course, the students will learn to:

- Understand the key historical events and cultural developments in the Czech lands from ancient times to the present.
- Analyze the political, social, and cultural influences that have shaped Czech history.
- Recognize the contributions of major historical figures in Czech history.
- Examine the evolution of Czech art, music, and literature as reflections of historical changes.
- Identify the connections between Czech history and broader European and global contexts.
- Gain insights into the role of the Czech Republic in contemporary European society.

### Course content:

- **Introduction:** Get acquainted with the essential facts about this small yet pivotal state in Central Europe.
- **Ancient Foundations:** Journey through prehistoric cultures, Celtic, Germanic, and Slavic roots, the rise of Great Moravia, and the Christianization that shaped the Czech Lands.
- **Formation of the Czech State:** Trace the rise of the Přemyslid Dynasty and the birth of the Czech state, alongside the rise of Romanesque culture.
- **The Luxembourg Dynasty:** Uncover the lasting legacy of Emperor Charles IV and his transformative influence on Central Europe.
- **Gothic Era:** Explore the stunning Gothic contributions to Czech architecture and art that still captivate today.

- **Religious Wars of the 15th Century:** Experience the courage and conviction of Jan Hus, whose pursuit of truth sparked the Hussite Movement, alongside the Jagiello Dynasty and Jiří of Poděbrady's bold peace efforts.
- **The Habsburgs:** Dive into the Renaissance under Habsburg rule, a time of cultural brilliance and political power.
- **Protestant-Catholic Conflicts:** Explore the intense clashes between Protestantism and Catholicism, which led to the exile of intellectuals. From the Battle of White Mountain to the turmoil of the Thirty Years' War.
- **Baroque to Enlightenment:** Experience the shift from Baroque grandeur to the Enlightenment's drive for reform, shaped by the vision of Maria Theresa and Joseph II.
- **Romanticism and National Revival:** Feel the surge of nationalism and Pan-Slavism that fueled Czech identity in the 19th century.
- **Modern Era:** Step into the Czech Lands on the eve of World War I, meet Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, and witness the birth of Czechoslovakia in 1918.
- **First Republic:** A golden age of flourishing arts, industrial growth, and intellectual innovation, shadowed by the forces of German nationalism and Soviet communism.
- **Dark Times:** Delve into the devastating consequences of the Munich Conference, the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, and the tragic fate of the Jewish population during World War II.
- **Communist Era:** Explore the tumultuous decades of communist rule—from the coup of 1948 and political trials, to the Prague Spring, Normalization, Václav Havel's defiant dissent, and the Velvet Revolution.
- **Post-Communist Developments:** Trace the evolution of the Czech Republic after the fall of communism, from the dissolution of Czechoslovakia to the development of contemporary arts and culture.
- **The Czech Republic Today:** Examine the challenges and opportunities of modern Czech society—its role in the European Union, issues of migration, environmental skepticism, ethnic diversity, and relations with Russia.

#### Learning activities, teaching methods and workload (hours):

| Type of teaching method           | Daily attendance |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Participation in lectures         | 52 h             |
| Preparation for lectures          | 36 h             |
| Preparation of course assignments | 32 h             |
| Preparation for tests             | 36 h             |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>156h</b>      |

#### Assessment methods and criteria:

| Requirement type | Daily attendance |
|------------------|------------------|
|------------------|------------------|

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Attendance             | 20%         |
| Presentation + Summary | 20%         |
| Guided Tour (Prague)   | 20%         |
| Final test             | 40%         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>100%</b> |

### Special requirements and details:

Students must complete both the Presentation & Summary and the Guided Tour assignments to pass the course.

Final Test: A minimum score of 60% is required to pass. There are no re-takes.

Attendance: Students can miss up to 4 classes. To excuse an absence in InSIS, students need to submit a doctor's note within a week. More than 4 unexcused absences will result in an automatic 20-point deduction.

### Assessment:

| Graded courses |                        |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1=A            | Excellent (90 - 100%)  |
| 2=B            | Very good (75 - 89%)   |
| 3=C            | Good (60 - 74%)        |
| 4=F            | Insufficient (0 - 59%) |

### Reading:

|    |                                    |                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                         |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| RQ | CIPKOWSKI, Peter.                  | <i>Revolution in Eastern Europe : understanding the collapse of communism in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and the Soviet Union</i> | New York: Willey, 1991.                                                                                                                                                                                   | ISBN 0-471-53968-6.     |
| RQ | ČORNEJ, Petr;<br>POKORNÝ, Jiří.    | <i>A Brief History of the Czech Lands.</i>                                                                                                                    | Praha: Práh, 2015.                                                                                                                                                                                        |                         |
| RQ | HAVEL, Václav.                     | <i>Europe as a Task</i>                                                                                                                                       | <a href="https://www.pro-europa.eu/europe/havel-vaclav-europe-as-task/?print=pdf">https://www.pro-europa.eu/europe/havel-vaclav-europe-as-task/?print=pdf</a>                                             |                         |
| RQ | HAVEL, Václav.                     | <i>The Power of the Powerless (with an Introduction by Timothy Snyder)</i>                                                                                    | <a href="https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/wp-content/uploads/1979/01/the-power-of-the-powerless.pdf">https://www.nonviolent-conflict.org/wp-content/uploads/1979/01/the-power-of-the-powerless.pdf</a> |                         |
| RE | BAŽANT, Jan;<br>BAŽANTOVÁ, Nina.   | <i>The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics.</i>                                                                                                          | Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010.                                                                                                                                                                  | ISBN 978-0822347941.    |
| RE | DEMETZ, Peter.                     | <i>Prague in Black and Gold: The History of a City</i>                                                                                                        | Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1998.                                                                                                                                                                       | ISBN 01-40268-88-X.     |
| RE | ENGLUND, Terje B.                  | <i>The Czechs in a Nutshell: a User's Manual for Foreigners.</i>                                                                                              | Praha: Práh, 2009.                                                                                                                                                                                        | ISBN 978-80-7252-266-8. |
| RE | PÁNEK, Jaroslav;<br>TŮMA, Oldřich. | <i>A history of the Czech Lands</i>                                                                                                                           | Praha: Karolinum, 2009.                                                                                                                                                                                   | ISBN 978-80-246-1645-2. |

RQ            required  
RE            recommended