



CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Prague

Course Code / Title: (PR/ARTH 332) Czech Art and Architecture: From the Middle Ages to the 21st Century

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Art History / Central European Studies, History

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: Open to all students

Description

The course examines key developments in Czech visual art and architecture from the early Medieval to the modern period. Slide-based lectures are supplemented with visits to representative monuments, museums and art collections in Prague. The ability of visual perception and identification of art styles is exercised and practiced in the authentic environment of Prague. Local architecture, sculpture and painting is interpreted within European context and its history.

The course includes many field-based components: architecture walks, visits to museums and galleries, churches, Prague castle, etc.

Objectives

In this course, students:

- Gain a foundational understanding of the history of art and architecture in Prague
- Learn the main characteristics of the following artistic and architectural styles: Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Neo-Renaissance & Historicism, Art Nouveau, Cubist and Modernist
- Gain skills necessary to analyze paintings, sculptures, and structures, putting them into historical context
- Come to understand the development of historical styles and become able to identify their elements
- Become versed in the oral presentation and discussion of art historical topics and themes

Course Requirements

Class Participation. Students must complete assigned readings in advance and come prepared to actively participate. Students are expected to abide by CET's Attendance Policy: class attendance is mandatory, as are all museum visits and other field-based course components.

Midterm Presentation. Students choose one artwork from a permanent collection they have visited (Collection of Medieval Art in the National Gallery, Exhibition of the Art of the 19th and 20th Centuries of the National at the Veletržní palace, or the Lapidary Collection of the National Museum), describes and analyzes the selected work of art in a short presentation (5 to 10 minutes) during the scheduled class visit to the relevant museum or gallery. Presentations must be polished.

Written Summary. Students submit a written summary of their presentation. The summary must cite all sources used.



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Midterm and Final Exam. The exams are based on the recognition and description of artistic and architectural styles in a selection of significant Czech buildings, paintings, and sculptures. The format will include multiple choice and essay questions.

Students are expected to attend each class and field-based course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Participation: 20%
- Presentations: 30%
- Written Summary: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

Readings

ANDĚL, Jaroslav (ed.). *Czech Modernism. 1900 – 1945*. Houston: Bulfinch Press, 1989

BLAŽÍČKOVÁ HOROVÁ, Naděžda. *Czech 19th-century Painting*. Praha: National Gallery Prague, 1998

DVOŘÁK, Anna – ARWAS, Victor. *Alphonse Mucha – The Spirit of Art Nouveau*, Alexandria: Yale University Press, 1998

KAUFMANN, Thomas DaCosta. *Court Cloister and City: The Art and Culture of Central Europe 1450 – 1800*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995

KRUMMHOLZ, Martin. *Troja Château*, Praha: Galerie hlavního města Prahy, 2017

MAIER, Karel - HEXNER, Michal - KIBIC, Karel. *Urban Development of Prague*. Praha: České vysoké učení technické, 1998

PETRASOVÁ, Taťána – ŠVÁCHA, Rostislav (eds.). *Art in the Czech Lands 800 – 2000*. Prague: Arbor vitae societas, 2017

ROSARIO, Iva. *Art and Propaganda: Charles IV of Bohemia 1346 – 1378*. Woodbridge: Boydell, 2000

TOMAN, Rolf (ed.). *Baroque: Architecture, Sculpture, Painting*. Cologne: Konemann Verlagsgesellschaft, 1988

VON VEGESACK – LAMAROVÁ, Milena (eds.), *Czech Cubism: Architecture, Furniture, and Decorative Arts 1910 - 1925*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1992

WITTLICH, Petr. *Prague. Fin de Siecle*. Cologne: Taschen Verlag, 1999

WITTLICH, Petr. *Sculpture of Czech Art Nouveau*. Prague. Karolinum Press, 2001

WITTKOWER, Rudolf. *Art and architecture in Italy 1600 – 1750*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Course Overview and Expectations

- What is art? What is / was its role? What is art history? Why and how is it studied?
- Chronology, terminology, methodology

Topic 2: Luxembourg Period

- Historical background
- European context
- Style(s)

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- Hussitism
- Urbanism of Prague

Topic 2: Medieval Art in Bohemia and Europe

- Historical overview
- Identifying architectural forms

Topic 3: Medieval Art in Bohemia and Europe

- Architectural walk 1
- Identifying architectural forms
- Collection of Medieval Art in the National Gallery
- St. Agnes monastery
- Painting and sculpture

Topic 4: Prague Castle

- Architectural styles
- St. Vitus Cathedral
- Royal Palace
- Royal Summer House
- Jagiellonian dynasty
- House of Habsburg

Topic 5: Late Gothic and Renaissance

- House of Habsburg
- Court Art Phenomenon
- Rudolph II. and his collections

Topic 6: Mannerism. Baroque Pomp and Hierarchies

- Counter-Reformation
- Jesuits
- Charles Bridge
- St. Nicholas church

Topic 7: National Mythos and Heroes

- (Neo)Classicism
- Romantism
- Historicism
- Czech National Revival

Topic 8: National Monuments

- Saint Wenceslas Monument
- Jan Hus Monument
- Palacký Monument
- Mánes Artistic Group
- Cubistic architecture

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Topic 9: Aristocratic splendor. Troja Chateau

- Baroque residences
- French formal gardens

Topic 10: Modern Sculpture. František Bílek

- Frantisek Bilek's Studio