

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Prague

Course Title: Czech Art and Architecture: From the Middle Ages to the 21st Century

Course Code: PR/ARTH 332

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

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

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 contemporary period within the European context. Slide-based lectures are supplemented with visits to representative monuments, museums and art collections in Prague.

Objectives

In this course, students:

- Gain a foundation 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 thoroughly analyze paintings, sculptures and structures, putting them into full 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 read required literature in advance (approximately 30 to 60 pages per class session). Class attendance is mandatory and active participation in class is expected. Students are also required to attend all seminar sessions and museum visits. They are encouraged to take detailed lecture notes and to review the notes weekly, correcting or enhancing what they have written. Students are expected to abide by CET's Attendance Policy.

Midterm Presentation. Students choose one artwork from a permanent collection visited (Collection of Medieval Art in the National Gallery; Exhibition of the Art of the 19th and 20th Centuries of the National at the Veletrzní palace; Lapidary Collection of the National Museum). Each student 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.

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

Final Exam. The final exam requires the recognition and description of artistic and architectural styles in a selection of significant Czech buildings, paintings and sculptures. The test includes multiple choice and essay questions.

Methods of Evaluation

The final grade is determined as follows:

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| Participation: | 20% |
| Midterm Presentation: | 30% |
| Written Summary: | 10% |
| Final Exam: | 40% |

Primary Texts

Karel MAIER - Michal HEXNER - Karel KIBIC, *Urban Development of Prague*, CVUT, 1998
Iva ROSARIO, *Art and Propaganda: Charles IV of Bohemia 1346 - 1378*, Woodbridge 2000
Thomas DaCosta KAUFMANN, *Court, Cloister and City: The Art and Culture of Central Europe 1450 - 1800*, London 1995
Eliska FUCIKOVA (ed.), *Rudolf II. and Prague: The Court and the City*, London 1997
Rolf TOMAN (ed.), *Baroque: Architecture, Sculpture, Painting*, Cologne 1988
Nadezda BLAZICKOVA HOROVA, *Czech 19th Century Painting*, Praha 1998
Petr WITTLICH, *Prague. Fin de Sciecle*, Cologne 1999
Czech Cubism Architecture, Furniture, and Decorative Arts 1910 - 1925, New York 1992
Lenka STOLAROVA - Vit VLNAS (eds), *Karel Skreta 1610 - 1674. His Work and his Era*, Praha 2010

Supplementary Texts

K. BENESOVSKA - I. MUCHKA - J. KOTALIK - P. ZATLOUKAL - Z. LUKES, *Ten Centuries of Architecture*, Praha 2001
Rudolf WITTKOWER, *Art and Architecture in Italy 1600 - 1750*
Petr WITTLICH, *Sculpture of Czech Art Nouveau*, Praha 2002
Rostislav SVACHA - Jiri MALY, *Czech Cubist Architecture*, Praha 2000
Jaroslav ANDEL (ed.), *Czech Modernism. 1900 - 1945*, Houston 1989
Erwin PANOFSKY, *Meaning in the Visual Arts*
E. H. GOMBRICH, *The Story of Art*
Jiri FAJT, *Medieval Art in Bohemia*, Praha 2003

Outline of Course Content

Note: Fall and spring students cover approximately 1 topic every week.

Topic 1: Course Overview and Expectations.

What is art? What is / was its role? What is art history? Why and how is it studied?

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Chronology, terminology, methodology

Topic 2: European Medieval Art, Luxembourg Gothic

Historical overview

Identifying architectural forms

Topic 3: Italian Renaissance, Central European Late Gothic

Historical style

Comparison to European style

Topic 4: Charles Bridge, Prague Castle and Cathedral

Sculpture

Architecture

Painting and glassworks

The Czech national history

Topic 5: Collection of Medieval Art in the National Gallery

St. Agnes Convent

The Medieval period: Gothic Art

Topic 6: Court Art Phenomenon

Rudolph II and his collection

Picture gallery at the Prague Castle

Lobkowitz collections

Topic 7: Current Exhibitions at Prague Castle

Current curatorial practices

Exhibitions of the Prague Castle (Karel Skreta/Rosenbergs collection)

Topic 8: Belvedere, Hvezda Summer Palace

Italian Renaissance in Prague

Art and architecture in the period of Ferdinand I

Contracting and comparing Hvezda and Bevedere

Topic 9: Baroque Pomp and Hierarchies, Bohemian Baroque

Baroque in Europe vs. Czech Baroque

Baroque and the Church

St. Nicholas Church

Breznov Monastery

Topic 10: Troja Chateau, Lapidary Collection of the National Museum

Baroque painting, gardens and vineyards

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Sculpture collection of National Museum & Academy of Fine Arts
Vystaviste structure

Topic 11: Romanticism, Historicism, National Mythos
Frantisek Bilek's Studio
Exhibition of 19th-century art at the National Gallery

Topic 12: Czech Cubism and Modernism
Exhibition of 20th-century art at the National Gallery
Czech Art from 1900-1930
Czech Cubist Museum
Cubist art and architecture