

Course Title

Czech Heroes and Leaders II

What to expect

Module II: Pioneers and Patriots: T.G. Masaryk, Františka Plamínková and Jan Palach

Overview

Track	LovePrague
Instructor	Joshua Hayden
Date	April 8 - 28, 2021
Format	Four-week course
Delivery	On campus / in city
Price	6,000 CZK
Academic credits	N/A
Pre-requisites	N/A
Language	English

Course Description

There is no better place to study the practice of courageous leadership place in than Prague, Czech Republic. The people here have had to endure the direct turmoil of both of the 20th Century's most infamous tyrants: Hitler and Stalin.

This was the capital of an empire, a democracy, under a totalitarian regime, and back to democracy. In the midst of dark and challenging times, leaders in Prague have mobilized others to live by their principles, to live in truth even if it meant risking their lives and families.

This module explores the lives of a founder, a forgotten women's rights innovator, and a human touch that helped ignite the Velvet Revolution. Prague owes so much to these three leaders who endeavored to lay down their lives symbolically and literally for a better future for their fellow citizens. These three will challenge us to examine the meaning of democracy, equality for all people, and our responsibility to civil society. They faced down anti-Semitism, Hitler's agenda, and communist normalization. We examine three themes: empowering stories, the influence of networks, and visionary citizenship.

Learning Outcomes

- * Analyze the dynamics of leaders and followers by zooming in on the decisions, symbolic actions, perspectives, and tactics of leaders and collaborators within their context
- * Interpret the themes of empowering stories, the influence of networks, and visionary citizenship in the practice of leadership
- * Interpret leadership lessons through the reciprocal relationship between leaders and followers
- * Apply a thoughtful understanding of leadership through the lives of leaders to current leadership issues

Methodology

This active learning course involves dialogue, experiential learning around the city, group activities and reflection. It is an academic course and the professor will provide insights from research, historical accounts, and leadership literature.

We meet in four sessions, two hours each, and tour Havel's Prague for a unique Saturday experience.

Schedule and Course Content

Session 1				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Duration
How do stories impact a leader's influence? T.G. Masaryk's journey from traitor to founder	April 8	10am - 12pm	AAU Classroom	2 hours
Description	In this session we will explore together the following: <div><div>1.</div><div>How did Masaryk's formation of character in his young life prepare him for the rigors of leading later on?</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>How is the nature of leadership similar and distinct from having authority?</div></div> <div><div>3.</div><div>Is unpopularity important to good leadership?</div></div>			
Materials	Notebook/journal, reading online			
Session 2	Date	Time	Place	Duration
Why are networks and allies so transformational in bringing change? Františka Plamínková's journey from schoolteacher to international suffragette	April 15	10am - 12pm	AAU Classroom	2 hours
Description	In this session we will explore together the following: <div><div>•</div><div>Why have most people never heard of Františka Plamínková?</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>How are social and professional networks essential to strategic leadership?</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>What can Plamínková teach us about transcending our own personal and professional domains to enact change?</div></div>			
Materials	Notebook/journal, short articles online			
Session 3	Date	Time	Place	Duration
Is leadership for everyone? Jan Palach's journey to visionary citizenship	April 22	10am - 12pm	AAU Classroom/Palach Monument/suicide and mother of suicide	2 hours
Description	In this session we will explore together the following: <div><div>•</div><div>Why is Palach a hero in the Czech consciousness?</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>What is the role of responsibility in the face of repressive systems like communism?</div></div> <div><div>•</div><div>What did Palach's short life ignite in students and adults in the Velvet Revolution and today?</div></div>			
Materials	Notebook/ journal, article online			

Saturday Excursion	Date	Time	Place	Duration
Power and Protest in Prague	April 24	10am - 2pm	Prague Castle and Wenceslas Square	4 hours
Description	We will take a unique guided tour of Prague Castle and Wenceslas Square to discuss the role of power, myth, responsibility and sacrifice in leadership. With special guests and critical discussion this will be a uniquely inspiring experience.			
Materials	Walking shoes, notebook/journal			

Session 4	Date	Time	Place	Duration
Leadership for what? Applying the lessons of pioneers and patriots to today	April 29	10am - 12pm	AAU Classroom	2 hours
Description	<p>In this session we will explore together the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What legacy would you like to leave? • Is there an issue that you recognize there is an opportunity to “go first” in initiating some kind of change? • What do Masaryk, Plamínková, and Palach have to say to us today? 			
Materials	Journal/notebook, leadership article online			