

Course Title

Genius of Prague

What to expect

Explore Prague through the lens of Music, Architecture, Literature, and Film, and get a glimpse of some extraordinary artists who shaped history.

Overview

Track	LovePrague
Instructors	Multiple
Date	February 2 - 23, 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

Four aspects of Prague introduced by four experts in four sessions.

Join author and musician Pavla Jonssonova to learn about Czech musical greats in Prague Soundscapes, and art historian Marek Cervený to get insight into Modern Prague Architecture, focusing on Art Nouveau, Cubism and Constructivism.

Professor Richard Stock will introduce Franz Kafka's works and "his" Prague at the turn of the 20th century, and actor and producer Joe Weintraub will round off the course with a glimpse into the cinematic genius of Milos Forman and perhaps inspire participants to create their own films using the beautiful backdrop provided by the City of a Hundred Spires.

Learning Outcomes

- * Delve deeper into Prague's history with academic insight through experiential classes
- * Meet the great names and understand the styles that helped shape Prague from a city on the periphery of an Empire to the bustling capital of an independent Republic.

Methodology

This is an active learning course involving dialogue and experiential learning around the city. It is an academic course and the lecturers will provide insights from research, historical accounts, and lead participants while exploring real sites around the city.

Each session is 3 hours long. Sessions 1 and 2 will be conducted by walking around Prague, thus good shoes and some refreshment (water etc.) recommended. A coffee break in a café is included, with free coffee or soft drink for each participant. Sessions 3 and 4 will be combine in-class lecture and a walk to relevant places in the city.

Schedule and Course Content

Each session will take place once a week, with a duration of 3 hours.
Please note meeting points are different for each session.

Session 1: Music				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Instructor
Prague Soundscapes	February 2	9am- 12pm	Prague	Pavla Jonssonova
Description	After meeting at Výtoň tram station. Participants will then head over to the cemetery of the Czech greats, where we will pay our respects to the best Czech composers Bedřich Smetana, Antonín Dvořák, opera diva Emmy Destinn and country music star Waldemar Matuška. Then we take the metro to Dvořák's museum. Our final stop will be at Reduta jazz club, where president Clinton performed for Václav Havel.			

Materials	A copy of Prague Soundscapes by Zuzana Jurková will be provided for all participants to complete the walk with readings.			
Meeting point	Výtoň tram stop (by Naplavka) Map: https://goo.gl/maps/tidCPFUgFVdRV1oj7			
Session 2: Architecture				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Instructor
Modern Prague - Art Nouveau, Cubism and Constructivism	February 9	9am- 12pm	Prague	Marek Červený
Description	The Architecture session will start with a short introduction to the position of Prague, its population, and the complicated artistic situation at the end of 19th century. After that we will proceed into the New Town where most of the famous examples of Modern architecture can be found. We will discuss how the National Revival movement reflected its ideas in architecture and how the younger generations of artists rebelled against this "old fashioned" tradition replacing the traditional and national, with cosmopolitan and modern turning their attention first to nature, and then to geometry. We will explain such structures as the National Theatre, Palacký Monument, Municipal house, examples of Cubist architecture, the Bank of Czechoslovak Legions and many more covering the period between 1880s and late 1920s.			
Materials				
Meeting point	Park Národního Probuzení on the Smetanovo nábřeží between National Theatre and Charles Bridge Map: https://goo.gl/maps/yWmQVXxttEq2SqmX8			

Session 3: Literature				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Instructor
Walk with Kafka	February 16	9am- 12pm	AAU Classroom and walk	Richard Stock
Description	<p>Week 3 will introduce participants to Franz Kafka and his fiction. This three-hour session will begin with a short introductory workshop on Franz Kafka and his works. Participants will learn about Kafka as well as read and discuss one of his short stories. This one-hour classroom portion will prepare everyone to go out into Prague and see Kafka-relevant sites for the remaining two hours. Commentary will be provided while viewing most of the places Kafka lived in Prague and the two major monuments to Kafka in the center of Prague. The walking part of the tour starts at AAU and ends near the Narodni trida metro station and tram stop. Since much of the architecture in Prague was present in Kafka's time, and also since Kafka loved to walk Prague's streets, the walk gives a feeling for who Kafka was, where his stories come from, and what Prague was like 100 years ago.</p>			
Materials				
Meeting point	AAU Campus, Letenska 5 Map: https://goo.gl/maps/uppjN5e5Y2B9B4q78			

Session 4: Film				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Instructor
Cinematic Prague	February 23	9am- 12pm	Prague	Joseph Weintraub
Description	<p>In our film session, we will be led by actor, instructor, and producer Joe Weintraub, who will take us on a historical and socio-political journey through the lens of a cinematic Prague. We will learn about the films made in, about, and around the “city of a hundred spires.” We will also discover a bit about the filmmaking process by preparing for our own filmmaker’s excursion through the city. So join us as we look at Prague through the cinematic perspective. Who knows, maybe you’ll be the next Miloš Forman!</p>			
Materials	Handouts will be provided at the start of class.			
Meeting point	AAU Classroom			