

## Course Title

# Prague, Pop, Politics

## What to expect

What's music got to do with it? Apparently, a lot. Join AAU professor, author and musician Pavla Jonssonova on a course about the history of pop, rock and how they have shaped politics and history in the Czech Republic.

## Overview

<b>Track</b>	LovePrague
<b>Instructor</b>	Pavla Jonssonova
<b>Date</b>	July 8 - 29, 2021
<b>Format</b>	Four-week course
<b>Delivery</b>	On-site / in city
<b>Price</b>	6,000 CZK
<b>Academic credits</b>	N/A
<b>Pre-requisites</b>	N/A
<b>Language</b>	English

## Course Description

This course will take you through the history of Czech pop and rock from the 1960s til today. We will watch the best music videos from the Prague Spring of 1968, discuss texts about the underground and alternative music as it developed in the 1970s and 1980s and admire the authenticity of the musicians, who stayed true to their beliefs and never betrayed.

Participants will see how the future president Václav Havel befriended The Plastic People of the Universe (Czech rock band most representative of the underground culture), and how he fought for their release from prison. We will learn about what happened to Czech music in liberal democracy after 1989.

The course is fully experiential, with classes held in Prague, visiting actual places and music venues. Relevant literature and readings will be provided to all participants in advance.

## Learning Outcomes

- Understand the history of Czech rock, know about the persecution and imprisonment of the musicians.
- Find out about five Czech bands and their poetics and topics
- See how music is connected to politics
- Learn about Czech musicians who are successful in the West, like Iva Bittová or Už jsme doma

## Methodology

Academic course led by a professor of AAU who will provide insights from her hands-on experience and research. In class lectures are complemented by visuals and discussion of readings. One excursion is to the Museum of Music, one to the Pop Museum at Kaštan.

## Schedule and Course Content

<b>Session 1</b>				
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Duration</b>
History of Czech Rock'n'Roll with music videos and lyrics translations	July 8, 2021	2pm -4pm	AAU Classroom	2 hours
<b>Description</b>	We will see how Czechs mastered the new music genre despite the Iron Curtain limitations, who were the first professional rock bands in the 1960s, and how the invasion of the Warsaw pact troops stopped it all. New strategies had to be invented in the 1970s, and as technologies progressed in the 1980s, rock once again developed itself as a resistance to the regime.			
<b>Materials</b>	Maderová, Blanka, et al. "Czech Alternative Music and Rock" in: <i>To Touch the World: Czech Musical Alternative 1968-2013</i> Praha: Fakulta humanitních studií Univerzity Karlovy v Praze, 2013. (Library) Ramet Sabrina. <i>Rocking the State</i> . Please have a question ready for a great discussion			
<b>Session 2</b>				
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Czech Underground, The Plastic People of the Universe, DG 307. Ivan Martin Jirous and Egon Bondy as the masterminds. Videos, films, discussion	July 15, 2021	2pm - 4pm	AAU Classroom	2 hours
<b>Description</b>	We will learn about a movement of brave rebels against the regime who remained true to their beliefs despite being put into jail. British dramatist of Czech origin, Tom Stoppard, wrote a play called "Rock'n'Roll" (2006), where he discussed the role of the underground at the end of the Cold War.			
<b>Materials</b>	Ivan Jirous <i>Report on the Czech Underground</i> . From <i>Views from the Inside - manifesto</i> Topol, Jáchym. "Game Park." Prague: Yazyk, 1995, 30-32. Pavel Z. <i>Time is a Mid-Night Scream</i> , Prague: Twisted Spoon Press, 1999. Please have a question ready for a great discussion			

<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Czech Museum of Music	July 22, 2021	2pm - 4pm	Karmelitska 2/4, Praha 1	2 hours
<b>Description</b>	Czech Muzeum of Music often houses grandiose exhibits not only on classical music but also on pop.			
<b>Materials</b>	Materials will be updated soon.			
<b>Session 4: Saturday Excursion</b>				
<b>Session 4: Saturday Excursion</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Duration</b>
POP Museum, Cross Club	July 24, 2021	2pm - 6pm	Kaštan, Bělohorská 201/150, Praha 6 Besední 487/3, Malá Strana Plynární 1096, P7-Holešovice	4 hours
<b>Description</b>	<p>The Pop Museum has a collection of instruments, records, posters, and photos. It is housed in a major independent culture center called Kaštan, which is operated by Unijazz, an organizer of alternative festivals, publishers of Uni.</p> <p>Cross Club is another major alternative venue with a distinctive architecture of moving statues, financed by the municipality of Prague to organize free events.</p>			
<b>Materials</b>	Zuzana Jurková: Prague Soundscapes . AAU Library, especially the chapter on Cross Club			

<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Music after 1989 Lecture with music videos	July 29, 2021	2pm - 4pm	AAU Classroom	2 hours
<b>Description</b>	Everything changed after 1989, new radios, labels, press, music stores, studios. Music stopped being a resistance tool and became just another market item.			
<b>Materials</b>	Materials will be updated soon.			