

Course Title

Urban Maze of Prague

What to expect

Prague Architecture 101 – a historical perspective of how different styles developed, their iconography, and how these can be used to interpret art and monuments across other European cities.

Overview

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Track | LovePrague |
| Instructor | Marek Červený |
| Date | June 23 – July 21, 2021 |
| Format | Four-week course |
| Delivery | On-site / in city |
| Price | 6,000 CZK |
| Academic credits | N/A |
| Pre-requisites | N/A |
| Language | English |

Course Description

Prague is described by many as one of the most beautiful cities in the world, or at least in Europe. For the untrained eye, this beauty is simply represented by all the beautiful monuments, richly decorated palaces and churches, nice gardens, historical bridges or winding streets. But is that all?

Once you get a deeper understanding of the history of the city and its people, of the rulers who resided here and how all this is reflected in the different forms of architecture and artworks you will become able to read the city as a textbook just by looking around yourself. You will be able to understand the meaning and symbolism hidden behind all the monuments and decoration you encounter almost everywhere in the city.

In this course we will discuss different styles, decorative forms, their iconography or meaning usually based on a longer tradition or on the ideas of the patrons who commissioned them. All this will be explained on the background of the history of the city and on the examples of both the most important monuments as well as some hidden gems.

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

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze the historical and stylistic development of Prague's most important districts and monuments
- Interpret the iconography, meaning and background of the key monuments and artworks connected with the story of the city and its people.
- Apply this knowledge to other monuments and artworks around Europe.

Methodology

This is an active learning course involving 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.

Schedule and Course Content

| Session 1 | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Topic | Date | Time | Place | Duration |
| From kings to presidents, from cities to City, from style to ornament. Introduction to Chronology, Iconography and the City of Prague. Terminology basics while walking in the neighborhood. | June 23, 2021 | 5.30pm – 7.30pm | AAU Classroom / Lesser Town | 2 hours |
| Description | Introductory session focused on chronology of the city, basic terminology, popular topics. Easy walk in the neighborhood. | | | |
| Materials | Course Reader and Terminology booklet will be provided during the session. | | | |
| Session 2 | | | | |
| Topic | Date | Time | Place | Duration |
| Medieval Prague. How Charles IV and his ideas shaped the city and the nation. The Castle and beyond. Romanesque And Gothic. | June 30, 2021 | 5.30pm – 7.30pm | Prague Castle, Old Town | 2 hours |
| Description | Visit to Prague Castle examining famous examples of Medieval architecture - Basilica of St. George, Cathedral of St. Vitus, Royal Palace. | | | |
| Materials | Relevant texts will be provided at the beginning of the session. | | | |
| Session 3 | | | | |
| Topic | Date | Time | Place | Duration |
| Habsbourg legacy: Renaissance reason, religious wars and Baroque ecstasy. Renaissance and Baroque. | July 14, 2021 | 5.30pm – 7.30pm | Hradčany, Lesser Town | 2 hours |
| Description | Exploring examples of Renaissance and Baroque style in the historical center - Belveder, St. Nicholas Church, Church of Our Lady of Victory, Vrtba Garden (according to the season). | | | |
| Materials | Relevant texts will be provided at the beginning of the session | | | |

| Saturday Excursion | Date | Time | Place | Duration |
|---|---|------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Nation Reborn: Vyšehrad and first tones of the modern era. Revival and rebellion. 19th century and Modern styles. | July 17, 2021 | 10am - 2pm | Vyšehrad, New Town | 4 hours |
| Description | Excursion to Vyšehrad Castle and its neighborhood focusing on the importance of Vyšehrad in Czech modern history and its role in the National Revival. In the Podskalí district we will explore famous examples of Modern architecture. | | | |
| Materials | Relevant texts will be provided at the beginning of the session. | | | |

| Saturday Excursion | Date | Time | Place | Duration |
|--|--|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Big Boom 1918. Prague the capital of dreams. Cubism, Poetism, Surrealism, Socialism, anything. | July 21, 2021 | 5.30pm – 7.30pm | New Town | 2 hours |
| Description | Walking around the New Town we will witness the national and social conflicts between Czechs and Germans and the young and old reflected in the monumental architecture of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. | | | |
| Materials | Relevant texts will be provided at the beginning of the session. | | | |