

Course Title

Czech Heroes and Leaders I

What to expect

Module I: Jan Hus, Milada Horáková and Václav Havel: Their Legacy and Meaning Today

Overview

Track	LovePrague
Instructor	Joshua Hayden
Date	July 8 - 29, 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 than in 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 three people who have shaped Prague and the Czech people in a profound way. The legacies of Hus, Horáková and Havel are very much present today in banners, movies, remembrances, protests, and dialogue about the future of this country and its democracy. Who were these people? How are they remembered here? What can their decisions, collaborations, and message teach us today?

The Czech Heroes and Leaders series presents an opportunity to learn about the lives and significance of leaders who show us possibilities and hope even in the darkest of times.

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 living in truth, authenticity, and inclusivity in the practice of leadership
- Articulate our own values and principles through the human stories of these individuals
- 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
What is leadership and why does it matter? Jan Hus: Living in truth as a principle of leadership	July 8, 2021	10am -12pm	AAU Classroom/ Old Town Square	2 hours
Description	We will explore together some key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is leadership possible without courage? • How do heroes emerge and why are they important? • What does Hus' legacy teach us about the role of truth in leading others? 			
Materials	Notebook/journal, syllabus			
Session 2				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Duration
What are the unique challenges of women in leadership roles? Milada Horáková: Authenticity and courage under fire	July 15, 2021	10am -12pm	AAU Classroom/ Czech Senate and Horáková Monument	2 hours
Description	We will explore together the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do women lead differently than men? • What were Horáková's unique challenges as a woman in the Czech senate? • What is the role of authenticity in effective leadership? • How does Horáková's courage during the Show Trials challenge us today? 			
Materials	Notebook/journal, Horáková article online, assessment in class			
Session 3: Saturday Excursion				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Duration
Havel's Prague	July 17, 2021	10am - 2pm	Various memorials and sites around Prague	4 hours
Description	This experience will be unlike any guided tour you've been on in Prague. We will have special guests, go to unique places that will bring out the character of Vaclav Havel and the people he inspired and mobilized. The four hours will be enlivened by discussion and role plays.			
Materials	Walking shoes, notebook/journal			

Session 4	Date	Time	Place	Duration
How do you mobilize others to take the risk of change? Vaclav Havel: Inclusivity and giving the work back to the people	July 22, 2021	10am -12pm	AAU Classroom	2 hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description 	We will explore the following questions together: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was Havel's Letter to Gustav Husak as form of leadership and why? How do leaders go from mobilizing a small group of people to a movement? What were Havel's strategic strengths and weaknesses? What role did inclusive leadership play in the Velvet Revolution? 			
Materials	Notebook/journal, Havel readings online			

Session 5	Date	Time	Place	Duration
Now what? Leaders of the past and conversation partners for the present	July 29, 2021	10am -12pm	AAU Classroom	2 hours
Description	We will reflect upon the lessons of the course with the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What activities and characteristics were common among these three leaders in their various contexts? How does the lives of these three inspire your own active citizenship and voice? What can the Czech context for leadership teach other cultures and countries about the role of responsibility and truth? 			
Materials	Journal/notebook, leadership article online			