

Course Title

Genius of Prague

What to expect

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

Overview

Track	LovePrague
Instructors	Multiple
Date	June 16 - 24, 2021
Format	Two-week course
Delivery	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 guide Tereza Rafoth in the first week for an introduction to Prague from one of its most iconic sights - Charles bridge, and art historian Marek Cerveny to get insight into Modern Prague Architecture, focusing on Art Nouveau, Cubism and Constructivism.

In week two, film actor and producer Joe Weintraub will provide 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. Musician, professor and author Pavla Jonssonova will round off the course with Prague Soundscapes, introducing you to Czech musical greats, classic and contemporary.

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, 2 and 4 will be conducted at different locations in Prague, thus good shoes and some refreshments (water etc.) are recommended. A coffee break in a café is included, with one free coffee or soft drink for each participant. Sessions 3 will combine an 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
Charles Bridge - an intro to Prague	June 16, 2021	5.30pm-8pm	Prague	Tereza Rafoth
Description	<p>The first intro session begins at AAU, and will introduce the city while walking over to Charles' Bridge, where participants will learn more about the history of Czech Republic with the city itself as a backdrop. This session will explore the stories, statues and structures of the bridge, focusing on the emotions and gestures of sandstone actors of this amazing Baroque "theatre". Mysteries of the bridge will be discussed, as well as the origin of Czech patron saints. The following sessions are linked to Charles' bridge in many ways: Its gothic architecture is renowned (Session 2), it has been featured in many films (Session 3), and the river flowing underneath inspired a symphony (Session 4). The ultimate goal of this grand introduction to Prague is to turn this iconic sight into a dynamic reminder of history rather than a beautiful thing we take for granted.</p>			
Materials	N/A			
Meeting point	AAU Campus, Letenska 5 Map: https://goo.gl/maps/uppjN5e5Y2B9B4q78			

Session 2: Architecture				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Instructor
Modern Prague - Art Nouveau, Cubism and Constructivism	June 17, 2021	5.30pm- 8pm	Prague	Marek Červený
Description	<p>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 the 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.</p>			
Materials	N/A			
Meeting point	Park Národního Probuzení on the Smetanovo nábřeží between National Theatre and Charles Bridge Map: https://goo.gl/maps/yWmQVXxttEq2SqmX8			

Session 3: Film				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Instructor
Cinematic Prague	June 23, 2021	5.30pm - 8.30pm	AAU Classroom and walk	Joseph Weintraub
Description	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.” Join us as we look at Prague through the cinematic perspective and learn more about the filmmaking process. Who knows, maybe you’ll be the next Miloš Forman!			
Materials	N/A			
Meeting point	AAU Campus, Letenska 5 Map: https://goo.gl/maps/uppjN5e5Y2B9B4q78			

Session 4: Music				
Topic	Date	Time	Place	Instructor
Prague Soundscapes	June 24, 2021	5.30pm- 8.30pm	AAU Classroom	Pavla Jonssonova
Description	After meeting at Výtoň tram station, participants will 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	Handouts will be provided at the start of class.			
Meeting point	<u>Výtoň tram stop</u> (by Naplavka) Map: https://goo.gl/maps/tidCPFUgFVdRV1oj7			