



## SSE 4955/6958: The Culture, Education, and History of the Czech Republic

School of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership  
College of Education, University of Central Florida

### COURSE SYLLABUS

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Instructor:	Dr. Scott Waring	Term:	Spring 2015
Office:	ED 206 J	Class Meeting Days:	TBA
Phone:	407.823.1766	Class Meeting Hours:	TBA
E-Mail:	swaring@ucf.edu	Class Location:	ED 206 L
Office Hours:	By Appointment Only		

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#### I. Course Overview

This exciting program will immerse students within Czech history and culture. Participants will visit historical locations, as well as travel in excursions, intended to extend the breadth of understanding of Czech history and culture. Lectures and presentations will be facilitated at sites instead of a typical classroom setting.

While abroad, the students will be evaluated upon their academic studies, observation, participation, selected readings, and group discussions. Participants will be expected to take knowledge gained and, from that, construct effective and innovative pedagogical methods and techniques for sharing Czech culture and history with K-16 students. In the Czech Republic, students are expected to remain engaged in the program's experiences and lectures and work collaboratively with colleagues.

Participants will travel to the Czech Republic for two weeks of cultural, educational, and history classes, with knowledge gained from opportunities to visit diverse locations. Excursions within Prague include the Petrin tower, Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge, Vysehrad, the Astronomical Clock, the Jewish Getto, and a general Prague city tour. Trips outside of Prague include visits to Tabor, Kutna Hora, Terezin, Ceske Budejovice, Beroun, Karlstejn, and Cesky Krumlov.

This program is open to undergraduate and graduate students who, while in the Czech Republic, will be expected to remain engaged in the program's experiences and try new things.

#### II. Course Objectives

- Enhance knowledge of Czech culture and history
- Recognize and describe cultural norms for the Czech Republic
- Explore cultural and historical differences and similarities between the United States of America and the Czech Republic
- Articulate the effect of historical forces upon people, culture, and landscapes
- Describe the differences between pre-travel expectations of the Czech Republic and actual experiences

- Construct effective and innovative pedagogical methods and techniques for sharing Czech culture and history with K-16 students
- Gain insight into what it means to live in a global world

### III. Course Prerequisites

None

### IV. Course Credits

3 credit hours

### V. Relevant Readings and Film List (Complete work or selected sections)

Borový, František, ed. Czech Autumn 1938. Prague, 1938.

Brecher, Elinor J. Schindler's Legacy: True Stories of the List Survivors. New York, N.Y.: Dutton, 1994.

Burton, Richard D. E. Prague: A Cultural and Literary History. Cities of the imagination. New York: Interlink Books, 2003.

Čapek, Karel. Talks with TG Masaryk. Highland Park, NJ: Catbird Press, 1995. □ Čapek, Karel, White Plague. New York: Theatre Communications Group, 1988. Dowling, Maria. Czechoslovakia. London: Arnold/ NY: Oxford UP, 2002. Fischerová, Daniela. "The Massage Table." Unpublished translation by Michael Henry Heim,

1992. □ Fučík, Julius. Noes from the Gallows. New York: New Century Publishers, 1948. Hašek, Jaroslav. The Good Soldier Švejk. London: New York: Penguin Books, 1973. Havel, Václav. "Letter to Dr. Gustáv Husák, General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist

Party." Václav Havel or Living in Truth. Jan Vladislav, ed. London: Faber and Faber,

1986. Havel, Václav. Open Letters: Selected Writings 1965-1990. New York: Knopf, 1991. Havel, Václav, The Garden Party and Other Plays. New York: Grove Press, 1993. Havel, Václav. "The Power of the Powerless," Václav Havel or Living in Truth. Jan

Vladislav, ed. London: Faber and Faber, 1986. Hrabal, Bohumil. Too Loud a Solitude. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992.

Kohout, Pavel. "The Chaste Centaur (Havel's Vaněk and Vaněk's Havel)," Václav Havel or Living in Truth. Jan Vladislav, ed. London: Faber and Faber, 1986.

Kopecky, "Awkward Newcomer? EU Enlargement and Euroscepticism in the Czech Republic,"

Euroscepticism : party politics, national identity and European integration. Robert

Harmsen and Menno Spiering, eds. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2004. Kundera, Milan, The Joke. New York: Penguin Books, 1985. Kundera, Milan, The Unbearable Lightness of Being. New York: Harper Collins. 2001. Kussi, Peter, ed. Toward the Radical Center. A Karel Čapek Reader. Highland Park, NJ: Catbird

Press, 1990. Lustig, Arnost. "The Return," "Rose Street" and "The Children," Night and Hope. Washington,

D.C.: Inscape Publishers, 1976. □ Nezval, Vítězslav. Alfabeta. Ann Arbor: Michigan Slavic Publishers, 2001. □ Patočka,

Jan. "What Charter 77 Is and What It Is Not," Good-bye, Samizdat: Twenty Years of

Czechoslovak Underground Writing. Evanston: Northwestern U. Press, 1992. Rovit, Rebecca and Alvin Goldfarb, eds. "Theresienstadt," "Creation in a Death Camp" and "Memories of Theresienstadt," in Theatrical Performance during the Holocaust: Texts /

Documents / Memories. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1999. Sayer, Derek. The Coasts of Bohemia: A Czech History. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University

Press, 1998. Šiklová, Jiřina. "The „Gray Zone“ and the Future of Dissent in Czechoslovakia," Good-bye,

Press, 1992. Škvorecký, Josef. When Eve was Naked: Stories of a Life's Journey. New York: Picador, 2000.

Smith, Adam D. "National Identity and European Unity," The Question of Europe. Peter Gowan and Perry Anderson, eds. London: Verso, 1997.

Stokes, Gale, ed. From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945. Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 1996.

Topol, Jachým. City Sister Silver. North Haven, CT: Catbird Press, 2000. Vaculík, Ludvik, The Guinea Pigs. Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1986.

#### FILMS

Theresienstadt, Gateway to Auschwitz (Paul Tyras and Jan Fantl, 1993)

Shop on Main Street (Ján Kadar and Elmar Klos, 1965)

A Hammer for Witches (Otakar Vávra, 1969)

Prague Spring (Gina Kovacs and Christian Vinkeloe, 1999)

Czech Dream (Vít Klusák and Filip Remunda, 2004)

#### VI. Basis for Final Grade

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Participation and Attendance	20%
Presentation	15%
Response Papers	15%
Lesson Module	50%
	100%

Grading Scale (%)	
90-100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

## **VII. Grade Dissemination**

Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using "myUCF Grades" in the portal. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. If you need help accessing myUCF Grades, see the online tutorial: <https://myucfgrades.ucf.edu/help/>.

## **VIII. Course Policies: Grades**

### **Late Work Policy:**

There are no make-ups for in-class writing, quizzes, the midterm, or the final exam. Essays turned in late will be assessed a penalty: a half-letter grade if it is one day late, or a full-letter grade for 2-7 days late. Essays will not be accepted if overdue by more than seven days.

### **Grades of "Incomplete":**

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

## **IX. Course Policies: Student Expectations**

### **Disability Access:**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

**Attendance Policy:** Offer specifics about your expectations for attendance. How many absences are acceptable/expected? Will students get points for attendance? You may also describe expectation of courtesy here.

### **Professionalism Policy:**

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, *etc.* **must be silenced** during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc.*, and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

### **Academic Conduct Policy:**

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file

and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University

**University Writing Center:**

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at <http://www.uwc.ucf.edu>, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.