

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Prague

Course Code / Title: (PR/ARTH 332) Czech Art and Architecture from the Middle Ages to the 21st Century

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Art History / Central European Studies, History

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

The course examines key developments in Czech visual art and architecture from the early Medieval to the modern period. Slide-based lectures are supplemented with visits to representative monuments, museums and art collections in Prague. The ability of visual perception and identification of art styles is exercised and practiced in the authentic environment of Prague. Local architecture, sculpture and painting is interpreted within European context and its history. The course includes many field-based components: architecture walks, visits to museums and galleries, churches, Prague castle, etc.

Objectives

In this course, students:

- Gain a foundational understanding of the history of art and architecture in Prague
- Learn the main characteristics of the following artistic and architectural styles: Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Neo-Renaissance & Historicism, Art Nouveau, Cubist and Modernist
- Gain skills necessary to analyze paintings, sculptures, and structures, putting them into historical context
- Come to understand the development of historical styles and become able to identify their elements
- Become versed in the oral presentation and discussion of art historical topics and themes

Course Requirements

Class Participation. Students must complete assigned readings in advance and come prepared to actively participate. Students are expected to abide by CET's Attendance Policy: class attendance is mandatory, as are all museum visits and other field-based course components.

Midterm Presentation: Students will choose one of the listed presentation topics. According to the professor's instructions, they will carefully prepare a 5-10 minute oral presentation on the chosen topic, which they will present during the scheduled class. The presentation is graded up to 20 points (percent). Up to 10 points can be awarded for quality preparation of the presentation (reading relevant literature, consulting with the professor). Up to 10 points can be awarded for the presentation itself based on its quality.

Written Summary: Students submit a written summary of their presentation (in Word, a minimum of 3000 characters without spaces, a picture should be inserted). The summary must cite all sources used. Submission deadline: May 4 2025. The written summary is graded up to 20 points (percent). Up to 10 points

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can be awarded for quality preparation of the written summary (reading relevant literature, consulting with the professor). Up to 10 points can be awarded for the quality of the written summary itself.

Midterm and Final Exam. The exams are based on the recognition and description of artistic and architectural styles in a selection of significant Czech buildings, paintings, and sculptures. The format will include multiple choice and essay questions.

Students are expected to attend each class and field-based course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Participation: 20% (10% midterm participation, 10% post midterm part.)
- Presentations: 20% (10% preparation and tutorial, 10% presentation)
- Written Summary: 20% (10% preparation and tutorial, 10% paper)
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

Class Participation Grading Rubric

	A – 90-100% Exemplary	B – 80-89% Proficient	C – 70-79% Developing	D – 60-69% Unacceptable	F – 0-59% Missing
Quality of class participation	Contribution is always insightful and constructive Intensive participation in discussions	Contribution is mostly insightful and constructive Participation in discussions	Contribution is somewhat insightful and constructive Poor participation in discussions Use of a phone or other electronic devices during class	Contribution is rarely insightful and constructive Minimal participation in discussions Use of a phone or other electronic devices during class	Does not contribute Nonparticipation in discussions Repeated use of a phone or other electronic devices
Level of class preparation	Always prepared Quiz success rate 90-100%	Mostly prepared Quiz success rate 80-89%	Somewhat prepared Quiz success rate 70-79%	Rarely prepared Quiz success rate 60-69%	Consistently unprepared Quiz success rate less than 60%

Readings

ANDĚL, Jaroslav (ed.). *Czech Modernism. 1900 – 1945*. Houston: Bulfinch Press, 1989

BLAŽÍČKOVÁ HOROVÁ, Naděžda. *Czech 19th-century Painting*. Praha: National Gallery Prague, 1998

DVOŘÁK, Anna – ARWAS, Victor. *Alphonse Mucha – The Spirit of Art Nouveau*, Alexandria: Yale University Press, 1998

KAUFMANN, Thomas DaCosta. *Court Cloister and City: The Art and Culture of Central Europe 1450 – 1800*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995

- KRUMMHOLZ, Martin. *Troja Château*, Praha: Galerie hlavního města Prahy, 2017
- MAIER, Karel - HEXNER, Michal - KIBIC, Karel. *Urban Development of Prague*. Praha: České vysoké učení technické, 1998
- PETRASOVÁ, Taťána – ŠVÁCHA, Rostislav (eds.). *Art in the Czech Lands 800 – 2000*. Prague: Arbor vitae societas, 2017
- ROSARIO, Iva. *Art and Propaganda: Charles IV of Bohemia 1346 – 1378*. Woodbridge: Boydell, 2000
- TOMAN, Rolf (ed.). *Baroque: Architecture, Sculpture, Painting*. Cologne: Konemann Verlagsgesellschaft, 1988
- VON VEGESACK – LAMAROVÁ, Milena (eds.), *Czech Cubism: Architecture, Furniture, and Decorative Arts 1910 - 1925*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1992
- WITTLICH, Petr. *Prague. Fin de Siecle*. Cologne: Taschen Verlag, 1999
- WITTLICH, Petr. *Sculpture of Czech Art Nouveau*. Prague. Karolinum Press, 2001
- WITTKOWER, Rudolf. *Art and architecture in Italy 1600 – 1750*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Course Overview and Expectations

- What is art? What is / was its role? What is art history? Why and how is it studied?
- Chronology, terminology, methodology
- Historical overview
- Presentation topics

Topic 2: Přemyslid Period

- Historical background
- European context
- Style(s)
- Přemyslids
- Urbanism of Prague

Topic 3: Luxembourg Period / 15th Century in Bohemia and Europe

- House of Luxembourg
- Jan Hus and Hussites
- Late Gothic
- Italian Renaissance

Topic 4: Medieval Art in Bohemia and Europe

- Architectural walk 2
- Identifying architectural forms
- Collection of Medieval Art in the National Gallery
- St. Agnes monastery

Topic 4: Prague Castle

- Architectural styles
- St. Vitus Cathedral
- Royal Palace
- Royal Summer House
- Jagiellonian dynasty

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Topic 6: Renaissance and Mannerism

- Renaissance
- House of Habsburg
- Rudolph II. and his collections
- Mannerism

Topic 7: Baroque Pomp and Hierarchies

- Counter-Reformation
- Jesuits
- Baroque
- Rococ

Topic 8: Aristocratic splendor. Troja Chateau

- Troja Chateau
- French formal gardens
- Stromovka Park
- Výstaviště (Exhibition ground) and its history

Topic 9: Gardens of Baroque and Classicism

- St. Nicholas Church
- Vrtbovská zahrada
- Garden Palace Kinský
- Enlightenment

Topic 10: 19th Century: National Mythos and Heroes

- (Neo)Classicism / Romantism / Historicism
- Czech National Revival

Topic 11: Modern Sculpture: National Monuments / František Bílek Studio

- Cubistic Architecture in Prague
- Jan Hus Monument. František Palacký Monument
- František Bílek Studio

Topic 12: Modern Art: Alfons Mucha / Czech Cubism

- Mánes Artistic Group
- Alfons Mucha / Slavic Epic
- Cubism / Modernism