



CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title:	History of the Czech Lands in the Central European Context
Course code:	CEAS 2001 PRAG
Programs offering course:	Business, Arts and Sciences, Central European Studies, Communication, New Media, and Journalism
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3.00
Contact hours:	45.00
Term:	Fall 2023

Course Description

Knowledge of a host country's broader historical context is essential for gaining an understanding that country's modern-day society, its politics, economy, and interpreting attitudes and behavior of its inhabitants. This course provides an overview of the milestones of the history of the Czech Lands going back to primeval times, exploring the highlights of Czech history, such as the empire under Charles IV, religious wars in the Middle Ages, the impact of world wars and the struggle of the Czech people under the communist regime, in the broader cultural context of Europe. It examines the different ethnicities that populated the territory, including Celtic, Germanic, and Slavic tribes, Czechs, Germans, Jews and Slovaks and the general features of their political, social, and cultural life, and their impact on historical developments as well as modern-day Czech Republic.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- demonstrate an overall understanding of historical, social, religious, geographical, and cultural development of the Czech Lands;
- describe and explain the impact of major historical events and milestones which occurred on the territory of the Czech Lands;
- reflect on and interpret their potential effects on contemporary Czech society;
- describe and critically discuss the geopolitical, economic, and cultural development of the Czech Lands within the broader Central European context throughout history.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Lectures with PowerPoint presentations, discussions, guest lectures, field trips, film screenings and an overnight excursion.

Assessment and Final Grade

1.	Tests	15%
2.	Final Exam	20%
3.	Student Presentation	15%
4.	Final Essay	20%
5.	Course Excursion Assignment	10%
6.	Class Participation	20%
	TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Tests

Students will take three in-class tests consisting of approximately 10 short questions on basic dates, events, and

persons, and 1 essay question covering the curriculum and readings of the particular part of the semester. These tests will be distributed during weeks 3, 6 and 9 and each will be worth 5% of the final grade.

Final Exam

The final in-class exam will consist of approximately 20 short questions on basic dates, events, and persons, and 2 essay questions, covering the curriculum and readings of the particular part of the semester.

Student Presentation

Final Essay

Students will choose a topic of interest and explore it throughout the course. They will present their findings during a 10–15-minute class presentation and submit an essay of a minimum of 2,500 words. The proposed topic and a one paragraph synopsis should be submitted to the professor in advance. Alternatively, students may choose to write a 2,500-word report on a visit to a historical exhibition or monument instead. In both cases at least three published sources must be cited.

Course Excursion Assignment

Students are required to participate in an overnight excursion. In addition to the organized events (visits to museums, castles, etc.), students will be asked to submit their own report on the sites visited, including photographs taken during the trip and collecting information on site. The reports will be submitted via Canvas.

Class Participation

Students are expected to actively participate in discussions and in-class short quizzes as well as presentations. Students are required to read the assigned texts for each class and take notes, which they should bring to class. Class participation is assessed four times during the semester, at the end of week 4, 7, 10 and 13.

CIEE Prague Class Participation Policy

Assessment of students' participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. Participation is valued as **meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom**, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students are required to actively, meaningfully and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and all types of in-class activities throughout the duration of the class. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed, in advance of each class session. This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Students are responsible for following the course content and are expected to ask clarification questions if they cannot follow the instructor's or other students' line of thought or argumentation.

The use of electronic devices is only allowed for computer-based in-class tests, assignments and other tasks specifically assigned by the course instructor. Students are expected to take notes by hand unless the student is entitled to the use of computer due to his/her academic accommodations. In such cases the student is required to submit an official letter issued by his/her home institution specifying the extent of academic accommodations.

Class participation also includes students' active participation in Canvas discussions and other additional tasks related to the course content as specified by the instructor.

Students will receive a partial participation grade every three weeks.

Attendance

To encourage engaged learning, regular class attendance is required throughout the program. This includes any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as internship, service-learning, or other required field placement.

An excused absence in a CIEE course will only be considered if approved by a CIEE Center Director/Academic Director (not the Instructor), and:

- it is a self-certified absence for illness (only once per course, requires formal request before or within 24 hours, cannot miss assessment worth more than 5% of final course grade)
- a doctor's note from a local medical professional is provided

- evidence of a family emergency is provided
- it is a pre-approved observance of religious holiday

Unexcused absences include personal travel and/or travel delays, as well as missing more than 25% of a single class period (including tardiness and early departure). Assessments missed due to unexcused absences will be marked as zero. Students with over 10% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff. Students with over 20% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff, receive a formal warning letter (shared with their home institution) and lose 10% of the final course point total (e.g., a final A grade of 93% will be lowered to a B grade of 83%).

For more detail, please consult your CIEE Academic Manual.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive and inclusive teaching and learning environment. All students are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness, respect, and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in grade penalties or disciplinary action. See the CIEE Student Academic Manual for further information on academic integrity.

N.B. Course schedule and co-curriculars are subject to change. The final duration and distribution of content and assignments will be determined and presented to students at the onset of the course.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class: 1.1 Introduction: Czech or Bohemian History?

Introduction: Course Requirements; Sources; Geographical Context; Basic Terms; Czech Historical Metanarratives and Stereotypes

Class: 1.2 Introduction: Czech or Bohemian History?

Medieval Church and the Holy Roman Empire; Arrival of the Slavs; Great Moravia; Mythical Origins of Bohemia – Forefather Čech, Foundation of Prague and Duke Přemysl

Reading:

Teich (1998), 23–38 (Course Reader).

Agnew (2004), 9–12.

Primary sources:

Bažant J., Bažantová N., Starn F. (2010), 13–16.

Week 2

Class: 2.1 Rise and Fall of the Premyslid Dynasty (10th–13th century).

Bohemian Patron Saint – St. Václav (Wenceslaus); Christianization; Bishoprics and Monasteries; Bohemian Game of Thrones; Natives and Foreigners; From Dukes to Kings

Reading:

Agnew (2004), 12–18.

Teich(1998), 39–49 (Course Reader).

Primary sources:

Wolverton (2015), 182–196, 254-265.

Class: 2.2 Premyslid Kings of the 13th century and their Ambitions

Knightly Culture; Silver Mines; Urbanization; Colonization

Reading:

Teich(1998), 49–58 (Course Reader).

Agnew (2004), 18–26.

Week 3

Class: 3.1 The Luxembourg Dynasty and the Hussite Revolution (14th century–1436).

Golden Era under Charles IV: Strengthening the position of the Kingdom of Bohemia in the Holy Roman Empire; Blossoming of arts.

Reading:

Teich (1998), 59–78 (Course Reader).

Primary sources:

Nagy (2001), 58–81.

Test 1: topics up to the Luxembourg Dynasty (inclusive)

Class: 3.2 Jan Hus

The Hussite Movement/Revolution/Wars (1415-1436) - Reasons, Courses, Results

Reading:

Teich (1998), 79–97 (Course Reader).

Šmahel (1990), s. 190–193 (Course Reader).

Primary sources:

Workman (1904), 262–265, 275–280.

Week 4

Class: 4.1 Monarchy of the Estates and First Habsburgs on the Throne of Bohemia.

Topic 1: Isolated Position of the "Heretic" Kingdom; George of Poděbrady; Jagellonian Dynasty; Dominance of the Estates

Reading:

Teich (1998), 98–116 (Course Reader).

Agnew (2004), 55–59.

Primary sources:

Letts (2016), 19–24.

Class: 4.2 Reformation and Renaissance

Printing Culture, RudolFINE Intellectual and Cultural Center in Prague

Reading:

Teich (1998), 117–142 (Course Reader).

Agnew (2004), 59–67.

Primary sources:

Bažant J., Bažantová N., Starn F. (2010), 219–222

Week 5

Class: 5.1 Bohemian Revolt, Thirty Years' War and the Baroque Era

Crisis of the Monarchy; Uprising of the Bohemian Estates and the Renewed Land Ordinance (1618–1627)

Reading:

Teich(1998), 143–163 (Course Reader).

Primary sources:

Comenius, http://babel.mml.ox.ac.uk/naughton/labyrinth/labyrinth_frame.html

Class: 5.2 The Thirty Years' War and its Consequences

Re-Catholicization and Centralization of the Habsburg Monarchy (1627–1740)

Reading:

Agnew (2004), 68–75.

Primary sources:

Bažant J., Bažantová N., Starn F. (2010), 96–99.

Week 6

Class: 6.1 Test 2 and Field Trip to Prague Castle

Midterm Exam Period

Consolidation of covered course material.

Class: 6.2 Field Trip 1

Field Trip to Prague Castle

Week 7

Class: 7.1 The Enlightenment and Czech National Revival.

Midterm Exam Period

1740–1790: Reforms of the Enlightenment and War of the Austrian Succession

Reading:

Sayer (1998), 62–69.

Class: 7.2 Napoleonic Wars

Bach's Absolutism and National Revival (1790–1848)

Reading:

Teich (1998), 182–197 (Course Reader).

Okey (2001), 99–119 (Course Reader).

Week 8

Class: 8.1 Revolutions of 1848; First Constitutions

Making of Modern Civic Society in the Lands of Bohemian Crown (1848–1914).

Revolutionary Year 1848 in Europe and its Consequences in the Lands of Bohemian Crown (1848–1860s).

Primary sources:

Bažant J., Bažantová N., Starn F. (2010), 133–136.

Beardmore (1947/1948), 303–308.

Class: 8.2 Struggle for Emancipation

Constitutional Monarchy, First Political Parties and later Political Diversification (1860s–1914).

Reading:

Okey (2001), 283–309 (Course Reader).

Teich (1998), 198–214 (Course Reader).

Week 9

Class: 9.1 Foundation and Building of the Czechoslovak Republic and its Problems(1918–1938)

End of the Belle Époque; World War I; Struggle for National Independence, Czech Hinterland; the Role of Czech-Americans in the struggle for independence

Reading:

Krejčí (1990), 137–155.

Test 3: period of 1740–1918

Week 10

Class: 10.1 Fall of the 1st Czechoslovak Republic,

Slovak State, Nazi Occupation and the Struggle for Freedom; Post-War Development; The Cold War and Triumph of Communism in Czechoslovakia

1938–1945: Munich Agreement; The Second Republic; Protectorate and Resistance; Holocaust and Reinhard Heydrich; Slovak National Uprising and Liberation

Reading:

Murray (1988), 143–148 (Course Reader).

Primary sources:

Bažant J., Bažantová N., Starn F. (2010), 321–326.

Class: 10.2 Fall of the 1st Czechoslovak Republic

1945–1953: Expulsion of Germans; The Third Republic between London and Moscow; Communist coup d'état and Stalinist terror; Restructuring of the society

Reading:

Krejčí (1990), 156–171.

At the European Crossroads (2005), 19–23.

Teich (1998), 306–313, 323–343 (Course Reader).

Bouška, Pinerová (2009), 9–29.

Primary sources:

Bažant J., Bažantová N., Starn F. (2010), 349–350.

Week 11

Class: 11.1 The Golden Sixties, Prague Spring and Soviet Occupation

1953–1968: "Wasted Opportunity" of 1956; Collapse of the Five-year Plan; New Wave during 1960s; Prague Spring

Reading:

Teich (1998), 313–317 (Course Reader).

Primary sources:

Bažant J., Bažantová N., Starn F. (2010), 376–382.

Kundera (1993).

Class: 11.2 The Golden Sixties, Prague Spring and Soviet Occupation

1968–1970s: Invasion of "Friendly Armies" and its Aftermath; Normalization and the New Social Contract, Charter 77

Reading:

Teich (1998), 317–319 (Course Reader).

Bren (2010), 85–111.

Černá (2011), 9–28.

Primary sources:

Havel (1992), 125–214.

Class: 11.3 Field Trip 2

Security Services Archive

Pichova (2008), 614–631.

Week 12

Class: 12.1 "Real" Socialism; the Velvet Revolution and the "Velvet Divorce"; End of History?

Shadow Economy, Perestroika, Petition Movement and the Velvet Revolution

Reading:

Teich (1998), 319–323 (Course Reader).

Krapfl (2013), 217–227.

Primary sources:

Bažant J., Bažantová N., Starn F. (2010), 484–488.

Class: 12.2 "Real" Socialism; the Velvet Revolution and the "Velvet Divorce"; End of History?

New Political Parties; The Dissolution of Czechoslovakia, Economic Transformation and "Wild Privatization"

Reading:

Teich (1998), 364–379 (Course Reader).

Gehler, Mueller, Suppan (2015), 137–160.

Contributions to Contemporary History (2015), 9–23.

Krapfl (2013), 208–216.

Blaive (2009).

Week 13

Class: 13.1 Final Exam Week

Class: 13.2 Final Exam Week

Final Exam

Course Materials

Readings

Primary Sources:

- Bažant J., Bažantová N., Starn F. (Eds), *The Czech Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Durham – London 2010.
- Beardmore W. (Ed.), Letter sent by František Palacký to Frankfurt, *Slavonic and East European Review* 26 (1947/48), 303-308.
- Comenius J., *The Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart*, http://babel.mml.ox.ac.uk/naughton/labyrinth/labyrinth_frame.html
- Havel V., *Power of Powerless*, in: *Open Letters: Selected Writings 1965–1990*, New York 1992.
- Kundera M., *The Joke*. New York 1993.
- Letts M. (Ed.), *The Travels of Leo of Rozmítal through Germany, Flanders, England, France, Spain, Portugal and Italy 1465-1467*, NY 2016 (Reprint).
- Nagy B. – Schaer F. (Eds.), *Autobiography of Charles IV*, Budapest 2001.
- Wolverton L. (Ed.), *The Chronicle of the Czechs (Medieval Texts in Translation)*, Washington 2009.
- Workman H. B., *The Letters of Jan Hus*, London 1904.

Secondary Sources:

- Bouška, T. - Pinerová K. (Eds.), *Czechoslovak Political Prisoners. Life Stories of 5 Male and 5 Female Victims of Stalinism*, Praha 2009.
- Bren P., *The Greengrocer and His TV. The Culture of Communism after the 1968 Prague Spring*, Ithaca 2010.
- Černá, M.: *Cadre Policy, Cadre Work and Screening in Communist Czechoslovakia. Simple Ideas, Complicated Practice*. *AUC Studia territorialia*, č. 2/2011, pp. 9-28.
- Gjuríčová, Adéla: *Coming to (a Short) Life: The Czechoslovak Parliament 1989-1992*. In: *Contributions to Contemporary History*, Vol . 55, No. 3 (2015), pp. 9-23.
- Krapfl J., *Revolution with a Human Face. Politics, Culture, and Community in Czechoslovakia, 1989–1992*. Cornell University Press 2013.
- Muriel B., *The 1989 Revolution as a Non-Lieu de Mémoire in the Czech Republic*, [https://cz.boell.org/sites/default/files/downloads/http___oldmail.otoman\(1\).pdf](https://cz.boell.org/sites/default/files/downloads/http___oldmail.otoman(1).pdf)
- Murray W., *Munich at Fifty*, *Commentary* 1988, s. 25-30, <https://www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/munich-at-fifty/>
- Pichova, H.: *The Lineup for Meat: The Stalin Statue in Prague*. *PMLA*, Vol. 123, No. 3 (May, 2008), pp. 614-631 (JSTOR)
- Sayer D., *The Coasts of Bohemia: A Czech History*, Princeton University Press 1998.
- Šmahel F., *Jan Hus - Heretic or Patriot?*, *History Today*, August 1990, pp. 27-33 (Course Reader).
- Smetana, V.: *The Czechoslovakia's Leaning to the USSR during World War II and the Collapse of a 'Bridge Between West and East' in the Years 1945-1948*, In: *At the European Crossroads*, Praha 2005, pp. 19-23.
- Suk, Jiří: *Czechoslovakia in 1989: Causes, Results, and Conceptual Changes*. In: Michael Gehler, Wolfgang Mueller, Arnold Suppan (eds.). *Revolutions of 1989. A Handbook*. Wien 2015, pp. 137–160.
- Teich M. (Ed.), *Bohemia in History*, Cambridge University Press 1998 (Course Reader).
- Wolverton L., *Cosmas of Prague. Narrative, Classicism, Politics*, Washington 2015.

Textbooks:

- Agnew H., *The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown*, Stanford 2004.
- Čornej P. – Pokorný J., *A Brief History of the Czech Lands to 2004*, Prague 2004.
- Crampton R. J., *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century - and After*. London, 1997.
- Krejčí J., *Czechoslovakia at the Crossroads of European History*, London-New York 1990.
- Okey R., *The Habsburg Monarchy. From Enlightenment to Eclipse*, New York 2001.
- Pánek J. – Tůma O. (Eds.), *A History of the Czech Lands*, Prague 2009.
- Polišíenský J. V., *History of Czechoslovakia in Outline*, Prague 1991 (2nd edition).

Recommended Readings:

- Albright M. (2012). *Prague Winter. A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948*, New York.
- Berend N. (ed.), *Christianization and the Rise of Christian Monarchy. Scandinavia, Central Europe and Rus c. 900-1200*, Cambridge 2007.

- Bolton J., *Worlds of Dissent. Charter 77, The Plastic People of the Universe, and Czech Culture under Communism*. Harvard 2014.
- Burian, M. et al. (2002). *Assassination. Operation Anthropoid 1941-1942*, Prague.
- Cornwall, M. and R. J. W. Evans (eds.), *Czechoslovakia in a Nationalist and Fascist Europe*, Oxford 2007.
- Courtois S. et al., *The Black Book of Communism: Crimes, Terror, Repression*. Translated by Jonathan Murphy and Mark Kramer, Cambridge, Mass.; London, England: Harvard University Press, 1999.
- Crowhurst, P., *Hitler and Czechoslovakia in WW II*, London 2013.
- Crowley D. – Reid S., edd. *Socialist Spaces. Sites of Everyday Life in the Eastern Bloc* 2002.
- David, Z. V. (2003). *Finding the Middle Way. The Utraquist's Liberal Challenge to Rome and Luther*, Washington – Baltimore.
- Demetz, P. (1997). *Prague in Black and Gold: Scenes from the Life of a European City*, Hill and Wang New York.
- Evans R. J. W., *Rudolf II and His World. A Study in Intellectual History 1576-1612*, Oxford 1973.
- Evans R. J. W., *The Making of Habsburg Monarchy 1550-1700*, Oxford 1984.
- Faber D., *Munich: The 1938 Appeasement Crisis*, London 2008.
- Fajt J., *Charles IV: Emperor by the Grace of God*, Prague 2006.
- Fudge T. A., *The Magnificent Ride. The First Reformation in Bohemia*, Aldershot 1998.
- Gellner E., *Nations and Nationalism*, Oxford 1983.
- Havlíček Borovský, K., *The Slav and the Czech*, in: Trencsényi B. – Kopeček M. (Eds.): *Discourses of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe (1770-1945) Vol. II*, New York 2007, pp. 250-254.
- Klápště J.: *The Czech Lands in Medieval Transformation*, 2012.
- Korbel J., *Twentieth-Century Czechoslovakia (The Meaning of Its History)*, New York 1977.
- Kovtun G. J. (ed.), *Czech and Slovak History. An American Bibliography*, Washington 1996.
- Kusin V. V., *From Dubcek to Charter 77: A Study of Normalization in Czechoslovakia 1968-1978*, New York 1978.
- Lambert M., *Medieval Heresy*, London 1977.
- Louthan H., *Converting Bohemia: Force and Persuasion in the Catholic Reformation*, Cambridge 2009.
- Marshall, P. (2006). *The Magic Circle of Rudolf II: Alchemy, Astrology and Magic in Renaissance Prague*, New York.
- Masaryk T. G., *The New Europe*, 1975.
- McDonald C. – Kaplan J., *Prague in the Shadow of Swastika*, Prague 1995.
- Musil J. (ed.), *The End of Czechoslovakia*, Budapest 1995.
- Neville P., *Tomáš Masaryk and Eduard Beneš: Czechoslovakia*, London 2010.
- Novák J. (Ed.), *On Masaryk*, Amsterdam 1988.
- Opat J. – Nový, R. – Žemlička, J. (eds.), *Illustrated Czech History 1-4*, Prague 1996.
- Opat, J., Nový, R., Žemlička, J. (eds.) (1996). , *Illustrated Czech History 1-4*, Prague.
- Pehe J. (ed.), *The Prague Spring: A Mixed Legacy*, London 1988.
- Pešková J. (ed), *Homage to J. A. Comenius*, Prague 1991.
- Polišínský J. V., *Tragic Triangle. The Netherlands, Spain and Bohemia 1617-1621*, Prague 1991.
- Poulík J., *Great Moravia and the Mission of Cyril and Methodius*, Prague 1985.
- Ripellino A. M., *Magic Prague*, UCP 1993.
- Rosario I., *Art and Propaganda: Charles IV and Bohemia*, Boydell Press 2000.
- Rupnik J., *The Other Europe*, New York 1989. Sayer D., *Prague, Capital of the Twentieth Century*, Princeton 2013.
- Scribner B., Porter R. and Teich M. (eds.), *The Reformation in National Context*, Cambridge University Press 1994.
- Shepherd R. H. E., *Czechoslovakia : the velvet revolution and beyond*, Houndsmills: Macmillan Press Ltd.; New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000.
- Skilling H. G., T. G. Masaryk: *Against the Current 1882-1914*, The Macmillan Press 1994.
- Štemberková M., *Universitas Carolina Pragensis*, Prague 1996.
- Svobodný P., *Historical Institutes, History Departments, Archives, Museums in the Czech Republic. A Guide*, Prague 2000.
- Thomas A., *Anne's Bohemia: Czech Literature and Society, 1310-1420*, University of Minnesota Press 1998.
- Trencsényi, B. and Kopeček, M. (eds) (2006-2007). *Discourses of Collective Identity in Central and Southeast Europe (1770-1945) Vol. I-II*, Central European University Press Budapest – New York.
- Wagner M. L., *Petr Chelčický. Radical Separatist in Hussite Bohemia*, Scottdale 1983.
- Wandycz P. S., *The price of freedom: A history of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the present*, London 1993.
- Wandycz P., *The Price of Freedom*, London 1992.
- Wolverton L., *Hastening toward Prague : power and society in the medieval Czech lands*, Philadelphia 2001.
- Yurchak A., *Everything was Forever until it was no more: The last Soviet generation*, Princeton 2005.
- Zacek J. F.: *Palacký. The Historian as Scholar and Nationalist*. Hague 1970.