Robots and Beer Pubs: Czech Culture from 863 to 1989  
C223

Instructor: Craig Cravens  
Email: cracrave@indiana.edu  
Meeting Time: TTh 5:45–7:00  
Meeting Place: BH 245  
Office: BH 512  
Office Hours: TBA  
Telephone: (812) 855-9906

IUB GenEd A&H credit  
IUB GenEd World Culture credit  
COLL (CASE) Global Civ & Culture credit  
COLL (CASE) A&H Breadth of Inquiry credit

Description:  
The course is a HEADY and INTOXICATING introduction to a people and culture that made ROBOTS and PILSNER BEER household names. We will take a virtual tour of Czech history, literature, film, art and brewmastery in an attempt to answer the central question: Who are the Czechs and why don't people take them more seriously?

THE COURSE WILL CONCLUDE WITH A TOUR OF UPLAND BREWERY.

Format:  
Class work will consist of lectures and discussion (in English) on the cultural, historical, and political history of the Czechs and their various national instantiations from their origins up to the end of Communist rule. Reading load is between 25 and 200 pages per week.

NO KNOWLEDGE OF CZECH OR ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR REQUIRED

Texts  
The following books are available for purchase at the IU Bookstore in the Memorial Union:

Richard Burton, *Prague, A Cultural History* (Interlink)  
Franz Kafka, *The Trial*  
Jaroslav Hašek, *The Good Soldier Švejk* (Penguin)  
Bohumil Hrabal, *Too Loud A Solitude, I Served the King of England*

Other readings will be posted on Oncourse under RESOURCES and the appropriate week.

Assignments and Percent of Final Grade
15% 1 paper on a building\(^1\)  
15% 1 paper on a book\(^2\)  
15% 1 paper on a movie\(^3\)  
20% Final Exam  

Tuesday, December 17\(^{th}\), 7:15–9:15

\(\text{\(1\) Due in class on Thursday, Sep 19\(^{th}\).}\)  
\(\text{\(2\) Due in class on Tuesday, Nov 19th.}\)

\(\text{\(3\) Due in BH 512 on Wednesday, Dec 18th.}\)
Papers are to be 4–5 pages, double-spaced, one-inch margins all around. Topics and guidelines will be distributed in class.

Final Exam will be based on both the class lectures and preparatory assignments (readings and videos). It will be clear what will be required for the exams.

Participation includes not only attendance but completing reading assignments on time and taking an active part in class discussion.

Presentation
Each student with a partner will give a ten-minute presentation on any aspect of Czech culture during the last week of class. This does not have to be high culture. In fact, presentations on low culture are highly encouraged. You may discuss Czech food, beer, prostitution, sports—anything that tickles your bohemian fancy.

**Absence policy** -- If you must miss class due to an excused absence (family emergency, illness, religious holiday or participation in an approved academic or athletic event), please let me know (in advance whenever possible) and be prepared to provide follow-up documentation. Note that it is always your responsibility to find out what you missed while absent and make up any missed work. Repeated unexcused absences will be reflected in course grade as below:

1-5 absences – proportionate % subtracted from Attendance Grade
6-14 absences – ½ letter subtracted from overall course grade (i.e., A- > B+)
15 absences – failing grade in course overall
Arriving 15 min. late 4 times = 1 absence.

Grading Scale

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Disability Statement
Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability must register with Disability Services for Students first. According to DSS guidelines, only students who have registered their disabilities with DSS are officially eligible for accommodations. When the disability has been registered, the student will receive a letter describing any accommodations necessary which must be presented to the instructor in the first week of classes. Please contact Disability Services for Students at 812-855-7578 in Franklin Hall 096 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. More information is available on the DSS web site (http://dsa.indiana.edu/dss.html).
Disclaimer
All information in this syllabus, including course requirements and daily lesson plans, is subject to change and should not be considered a substitute for attending class or for any information that is provided to you by your instructor.

Always bring the reading required for that day to class.
This includes reading assignments posed on Oncourse (but not websites).

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

WEEK 1  Who are the Czechs?
T, Aug 27: Introduction to the Course, Why You Should Care About the Czechs, Prague—10 Things You Need to Know

Th, Aug 29
Read: Burton, Forward and Introduction (pp. vii–9), look up online a few of the people and events Burton mentions and be prepared to ask questions or say something about them.
In Class: The Czechs: An Overview

WEEK 2  The Slavs and the Czechs
T, Sep 3 Geography, Early Slavic Civilization, Slavic languages, Alphabets
Read: Burton, Chp. 1

Th, Sep 5 The Middle Ages, the Golem
Read: Burton, Chp. 2 & 3

WEEK 3  Architecture
T, Sep 10 Romanesque, Gothic Architecture, Kutna Hora

Th, Sep 12 Renaissance Architecture, Baroque Architecture

WEEK 4  The National Revival
T, Sep 17
Read: Burton, Chp. 4, Erben, “A Bouquet of National Tales” (Oncourse)

Th, Sep 19  First Paper Due on Architecture
Read: Start reading Kafka's The Trial.
In Class: Lecture on Franz Kafka

WEEK 5  Franz Kafka’s The Trial
T, Sep 24
Read: Kafka, The Trial, pp. 3–53
Th, Sep 26  
Read: *The Trial*, pp. 54–87

**WEEK 6**  
**The Trial**

T, Oct 1  
Read: *The Trial*, pp. 88–198

Th, Oct 3  
Read: *The Trial*, 199–231 (do not read Fragments)

**WEEK 7**  
**The Good Soldier Švejk**

T, Oct 8  
Read: Hašek, *The Good Soldier Švejk*, pp. 1–155 (including Preface)

Th, Oct 10  
Read: Švejk, pp. 156–215 (including Epilogue)

**WEEK 8**  
**Czech Modernism**

T, Oct 15  
Alfons Mucha, Cubo-Expressionism  
Read: Burton, Chp. 5, Mucha, Cubo-Expressionism

Th, Oct 17  
Arcimboldo & Surrealism  
Watch at Home: *Valerie and Her Week of Wonders*

**WEEK 9**  
**World War II and The King of England**

T, Oct 22  
Bohumil Hrabal and World War II  
Read: Bohumil Hrabal, *I Served the King of England*, pp. 1–41

Th, Oct 24  
Read: *I Served the King of England*, pp. 43–130

**WEEK 10**  
**The Prague Spring**

T, Oct 29\textsuperscript{t}  
Read: *I Served the King of England*, pp. 131 to end.

Th, Oct 31  
The Prague Spring  
Read: Burton, Chp. 6

**WEEK 11**  
**Normalization**

T, Nov 5  
Czech New Wave Film  
Read: TBA

Th, Nov 7  
Czech Rock  
Watch at Home: *The Identity Card*

**WEEK 12**  
**Normalization & Too Loud a Solitude**

T, Nov 12  
Read: Bohumil Hrabal, *Too Loud a Solitude*, pp. 1–62

Th, Nov 14  
Read: *Too Loud a Solitude* to end
WEEK 13
Jára Cimrman & Czech Beer
T, Nov 19 Jára Cimrman
Second Paper Due on a Novel
Read: TBA
Th, Nov 21 Czech Beer and the National Revival
Read: TBA

THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 14
The Velvet Revolution
T, Dec 3
Read: Burton, Chps. 7&8
Th, Dec 5
Watch at Home: I'm All Good

WEEK 15
Student Presentations

FINAL EXAM: MON DEC 16, 10:15–12:15

FINAL PAPER DUE IN MY MAILBOX IN BH 502 BY NOON ON WED DEC 18