C 365/565 Czech History and Literature under Communism through Film
Second Eight Week Class Spring 2010
Bronislava Volková
Syllabus:


3. PRAYER FOR KATARINA HOROVITZOVA, 1969, 60 min., In Czech with English subtitles. This is the story of a beautiful Polish singer and her passion for life, set against the backdrop of the cruel game of trading Jewish lives for those of Nazi officers imprisoned in American jails. According to a novel by Arnošt Lustig. Reading: the novel. Discussion.


6. A TRIAL IN PRAGUE, 1999, 83 min. This video chronicles an infamous political show trial in Czechoslovakia at the height of the Cold War. In 1952, 14 leading Communists including Rudolf Slánský, the second most powerful man in the country. Archival footage and interviews, including one with Lise London, whose husband Arthur wrote The Confession, a Memoir of the Trial; and Jan Kavan, the future Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, whose father was a trial witness. Discussion.

8. *LARKS ON A STRING*, 1969, 96 min., In Czech with English subtitles. Directed by Jiří Menzel. While serving time for desertion, and taking steps toward re-education, a rag-tag group of workers unite as a young couple in the camp decides to marry. Even the prison guards are unable to resist the unlikely romance, as the wedding and on-site honeymoon unfold in a series of hilarious plot twists. Banned for two decades because of its criticism of the Communist regime. According to a story by Bohumil Hrabal. Reading: a story or novel by the author. Discussion.


14. Final Exam.

**NOTE:**
E-reserve literature can be found under course **C 364/564**, password: struggle or under C 365/565, password: invest.