

## **ART HISTORY AND SPIRITUAL VALUES** *In Central Europe*

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**Office Hours:** upon request

### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to the most important artistic movements in history and their architectural expression. It is based on excursions to the most beautiful and valuable architectural monuments of Prague and their interpretation in the context of the cultural history of Central Europe. Shared values have always had a major influence on the forms of art and architecture. Particular attention is therefore paid to spiritual and societal values that stood behind individual artistic trends. Prague represents a unique collection in this sense. Through presentations followed by guided tours of the most representative sites, students learn not only to recognize the main artistic styles, but also to read and interpret the values they represent.

### **Course Objectives**

The course will provide students with an overview of the most important artistic and architectural periods of Prague in the context of Central European art history. It will also enhance their competence to recognize individual artistic styles and identify their value contexts.

### **Course Structure and Requirements**

Sessions are composed of presentations, class discussions and guided tours to relevant sites in Prague. The course is open to all students and there are no special prerequisites. Students are expected to actively participate in all class activities, including discussions and field trips, and to study the assigned study resources (available online). Other requirements include response paper and a final project.

### **Grading Policy**

Class participation	20%
Response paper	20%
Final project	35%
Multiple-choice test	25%

### **Mandatory Completion Policy**

Note that all mandatory assignments and exams must be completed to the best of your ability in order for your final grade to be issued. Failure to complete a mandatory assignment or exam may result in a failing grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A+	97-100	Excellent Work
A	93-97	Outstanding Work
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Good work
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course

#### **UPCES Academic Integrity Policy**

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not tolerated. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the development of knowledge and learning is encouraged at many stages of the learning process. While we value technology for educational purposes, we also value originality and the retainment of knowledge, and thus using AI for assignments and examinations, even if rephrased, is strictly prohibited and considered an academic integrity violation, unless the instructor explicitly allows for it in the context of evaluated work

#### **UPCES Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy**

The UPCES program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristic, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

#### **UPCES Diversity Policy**

UPCES fully embraces diversity and strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds. Prague is a wonderfully diverse community and UPCES is no different. All students should feel at home while studying abroad and UPCES will do its utmost to make sure that becomes a reality. Although unique challenges may arise, we believe that students from all walks of life will encounter wonderful opportunities for enrichment as they explore a new culture while studying abroad.

## **Weekly Schedule:**

### **Week 1**

*CEE Introductory Lecture Series*

UPCES Orientation and CEE Introductory Lecture Series

### **Week 2**

#### **Course Introduction**

*Thematic introduction and historical overview*

### **Week 3**

#### **Roman and Romanesque: Values and Art**

*Tour:*

*Artistic Roots at Vyšehrad Castle*

### **Week 4**

#### **Medieval Spirituality in Gothic Architecture**

*Tour:*

*Gothic Themes in Old Town Prague*

### **Week 5**

#### **Language of Art in High Middle Ages**

*Tour of Prague Castle:*

*Spirituality of Basilica and Cathedral*

### **Week 6**

#### **Renaissance Artistic Revolution**

*Tour:*

*Renaissance Motives in Architecture*

### **Week 7**

#### **Spiritual Grandeur and Beauty of Baroque**

*Tour:*

*Best of Baroque Prague*

### **Week 8**

#### **Classicism: Rediscovering the Values of Antiquity**

*Tour:*

*Classicist Pearls of the Prague City Center*

### **Week 9**

#### **Historicism and Principles of Romanticism**

Tour:

*Neo-Gothic and Neo-Renaissance Collection*

### **Week 10**

#### **Novelty of Art Nouveau**

Tour:

*From Mucha Style to Municipal House*

### **Week 11**

#### **New Perspectives: Cubism, Art Deco**

Tour:

Czech Rondocubism and Art Deco

### **Week 12**

#### **Modernism and Progressive Ideas**

Tour:

*From Sacred Heart to Brutalism*

### **Week 13**

#### **New Paradigms of Postmodernism**

Tour:

*Flagship of Prague's Postmodern Design*

**Study sources** consist of readings and visual materials (videos, pictures). They will be available before each session in the online Canvas learning system.