

Central European History: Textual and Visual Representations

Lecturers:

Mgr. Věra Soukupová
(vera.soukupova@cerge-ei.cz)

Pavel Soukup, Ph.D.
(pavel.soukup@cerge-ei.cz)

Office Hours:
upon request

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

This course will introduce the participants to the crucial phenomena of Central European history and culture. While the turmoils of the twentieth century are covered by several UPCES courses, this class concentrates on tracing the foundations of contemporary identities and the roots of modern complexity. It covers Central European history from its origins to WWI, dealing with a wide range of topics such as chivalry and courtly culture, the Reformation and confessional conflicts, or nationalism and revolutions. All these subjects witness the evolution of social order, the search for ideal political systems, transformation of intellectual paradigms, and changes in artistic sensibilities. Every topic is studied through both key texts and emblematic images which facilitate the explanation of typical features of the given period. Close reading of sources and iconographical analysis is accompanied by extracts from films and excursions to museums and historical sites. The course will provide students with an understanding the development of Euro-American culture and the milestones of medieval and early modern history. It will also enhance students' interpretative skills and the competence to "read" specific cultural products which emanated from contexts quite different from their own background.

BASIC READING:

- Geoffrey PARKER (ed.), *The Times Illustrated World History*, London 1992
(chapters "Europe Recovers, 800-1250", pp. 139-156; "The Expansion of Europe, 1250-1500", pp. 175-193; "Europe: State and Power, 1453-1700", pp. 279-296; "The Age of Revolutions, 1776-1848", pp. 335-356; "Industry and Empire, 1870-1914", pp. 390-410; "The End of the Old Order, 1914-1929", pp. 411-428)
- Hugh AGNEW, *The Czechs and the Lands of Bohemian Crown*, Stanford 2004, pp. 3-174

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course is open to both history students and majors in other disciplines such as art history, literatures, as well as humanities and social sciences in general. Part of each class is devoted to chronology which allows students not specialized in history to deepen their orientation in the subject. Larger part is devoted to analysis of written and visual sources and to discussion. Students of all fields including history are expected to develop analytical and synthesizing skills and enhance their knowledge in the area of medieval and modern history.

Students are expected to read well the texts assigned prior to each class and participate actively in class work. Reader organized by weeks will be available in electronic form. Additional audio-visual materials and texts will be presented in class. Attendance is mandatory in UPCES courses.

Assignments: - reading for each class
- oral presentation (10-15 minutes)
- midterm test (short answers)
- final paper (class exam)
- final essay (homework)

Guidelines will be given in class.

GRADING POLICY:

20% - presentation, 20% - midterm test, 10% - class participation,
25% - final paper, 25% - final essay

WEEKLY PROGRAM:

1. UPCES Orientation Lecture Series

Lectures and site visits on subjects of history, culture, politics, and the economies of the Czech Republic and Central Europe in order to establish a common interdisciplinary background and vocabulary for all courses.

2. The Origin of Nations in Central Europe: Christianity and Government

Reading:

• “Europe Recovers, 800-1250”, in: Geoffrey PARKER (ed.), *The Times Illustrated World History*, London 1992, pp. 139-156

Sources:

- COSMAS OF PRAGUE, *The Cronicle of the Czechs*, transl. Lisa Wolverton, Washington 2009, pp. 38-45, 105-108
- CHRISTIAN, *Legend of Saints Cyril, Methodius, Wenceslas, and Ludmila*, in: *The Czech Reader. History, Culture, Politics*, ed. Jan Bažant – Nina Bažantová – Frances Starn, Durham – London: Duke University Press, 2010, pp. 17-19

Iconography:

- Mural Cycle in St. Catherine's Church, Znojmo

3. Medieval Courtly Culture: On Arms and Amours

Reading:

- Jean FLORI, "Knightly society", in: David Luscombe – Jonathan Riley-Smith (ed.), *The New Cambridge Medieval History*, vol. 4/1, Cambridge 2004, pp. 148-150, 176-184
- Maurice KEEN, "Chivalry and the aristocracy", in: Michael Jones (ed.), *The New Cambridge Medieval History*, vol. 6, Cambridge 2000, pp. 209-221

Sources:

- GUILLAUME DE MACHAUT, *The Taking of Alexandria*, ed. and transl. R. Barton Palmer, New York: Routledge, 2002, pp. 67-69, 81-97
- *Autobiography of Emperor CHARLES IV*, ed. Balász Nagy – Frank Schaer – Paul W. Knoll, Budapest: CEU Press, 2001, pp. 155-157, 171-173

Iconography:

- Codex Manesse – a manuscript with courtly poems and illuminations

Presentation: Guillaume de Machaut (poet)

4. EXCURSION

The Medieval Collection of the National Gallery, St. Agnes Convent

Reading:

- Paul BINSKI, "Court Patronage and International Gothic", Michael Jones (ed.), *The New Cambridge Medieval History*, vol. 6, Cambridge 2000, pp. 222-233

Presentation: Master Theodoricus (painter)

5. The Age of Reformations: Hussites, Lutherans and the attitudes towards Church crisis

Reading:

- Euan CAMERON, "The Power of the Word: Renaissance and Reformation", in: Euan Cameron (ed.), *Early Modern Europe. An Oxford History*, Oxford 1999, pp. 63-101 (part 2)

Sources:

- JAN HUS, On simony, in: *The Advocates of Reform. From Wyclif to Erasmus*, ed. Matthew Spinka, Louisville: The Westminster Press, 1953, pp. 205-207, 211-215, 222-226, 250-252
- PETR CHELČICKÝ, The Net of Faith, in: *The Czech Reader. History, Culture, Politics*, ed. Jan Bažant – Nina Bažantová – Frances Starn, Durham – London: Duke University Press, 2010, pp. 58-66

Iconography:

- The Law and the Grace: Iconography of Salvation between Christian confessions

Presentation: Jan Hus (preacher)

6. The Renaissance: Discovering the Magical Universe

Reading:

- Euan CAMERON, “The Power of the Word: Renaissance and Reformation”, in: Euan Cameron (ed.), *Early Modern Europe. An Oxford History*, Oxford 1999, pp. 63-101 (part 1)

Sources:

- The diaries of JOHN DEE, ed. Edward Fenton, Charlbury: Day Books, 1998, pp. 138-157

Iconography:

- Rudolph II's *Kunstammer* – reconstruction of a monarch's collection

Presentation: John Dee (scholar)

7. Midterm

Protestant Baroque: Searching for the Lost Paradise

Reading:

- Robin BRIGGS, “Embattled Faiths: Religion and Natural Philosophy in the Seventeenth Century”, in: Euan Cameron (ed.), *Early Modern Europe. An Oxford History*, Oxford 1999, pp. 171-205

Sources:

- JOHN COMENIUS, *Labyrinth of the world and the paradise of the heart*, transl. Howard Louthan – Andrea Sterk, Prague: Wald Press, 2008, pp. 54-71, 172-176, 181-186

Iconography:

- *Orbis pictus*: Seventeenth-century world in pictures

Presentation: John Amos Comenius (bishop, author)

8. EXCURSION

Catholic Baroque: The Church of St. Nicholas in the Lesser Town of Prague

Reading:

- Josef PETRÁŇ, “Baroque Culture and Society in Bohemia,” in: Vít Vlnas (ed.), *The Glory of the Baroque in Bohemia. Essays on art, culture and society in the 17th and 18th centuries*, Prague 2001, pp. 61-77

Presentation: Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer (architect)

9. Towards a New Social Order: Enlightenment and Revolutions

Reading:

- John ROBERTS, “Revolution from Above and Below: European Politics from the French Revolution to the First World War”, in: T. C. W. Blanning (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*, Oxford 1996, pp. 11-39

Sources:

- Hester LYNCH PIOZZI, *Observations and reflections made in the course of a journey through France, Italy, and Germany*, London 1789, pp. 316-323

Iconography:

- Pictorial satire and (anti)revolutionary propaganda

Presentation: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (composer)

10. Shaping Modern Identities: Nationalism and Historicism

Reading:

- Vladimír MACURA, “Problems and paradoxes of the national revival,” in: Mikuláš Teich (ed.), *Bohemia in History*, Cambridge 1998, pp. 182-197

Sources:

- FRANTIŠEK PALACKÝ, Letter to Frankfurt Parliament Committee of Fifty, April 1848, in: *Slavonic and East European Review* 26 (1947/48), pp. 303-308
- FRANTIŠEK PALACKÝ, *History of the Czech Nation in Bohemia and Moravia*, in: *The Czech Reader. History, Culture, Politics*, ed. Jan Bažant – Nina Bažantová – Frances Starn, Durham – London: Duke University Press, 2010, pp. 133-136

Iconography:

- Alfons Mucha, *The Slavic Epic*

Presentation: František Palacký (historian, politician)

11. EXCURSION

The Historical Building of the National Theater

Reading:

- T. C. W. BLANNING, “The Commercialization and Sacralization of European Culture in the Nineteenth Century”, in: T. C. W. Blanning (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*, Oxford 1996, pp. 120-133

Presentation: Bedřich Smetana (composer)

12. From Industrial Revolution to WWI: Progress and Cataclysm

Reading:

- Clive TREBILCOCK, “The Industrialization of Modern Europe, 1750-1914”, in: T. C. W. Blanning (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*, Oxford 1996, pp. 40-68

Sources:

- JAROSLAV HAŠEK, *The good soldier Švejk and his fortunes in the World War*, transl. Cecil Parrott, London 1974, pp. 565-580

Iconography:

- Destruction of the Form – Modern Styles in painting and architecture

Presentation: Jaroslav Hašek (writer)

13. Class Examination: Final Paper Closing Discussion

ADDITIONAL READING:

- Euan CAMERON (ed.), *Early Modern Europe. An Oxford History*, Oxford 1999
- T. C. W. BLANNING (ed.), *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern Europe*, Oxford 1996
- Mikuláš TEICH (ed.), *Bohemia in History*, Cambridge University Press 1998
- Derek SAYER, *The Coasts of Bohemia*, Princeton 1998
- Peter DEMETZ, *Prague in Black and Gold: The history of a city*, Penguin Books, 1998
- Lisa WOLVERTON, *Hastening toward Prague. Power and society in the medieval Czech lands*, Philadelphia 2001
- Howard KAMINSKY, *A History of the Hussite Revolution*, Berkeley 1967
- James R. PALMITESSA (ed.), *Between Lipany and White Mountain. Essays in late medieval and early modern Bohemian history in modern Czech scholarship*, Leiden 2014.
- Euan CAMERON, *The European Reformation*, Oxford 2012
- R. J. W. EVANS, *Rudolf II and His World. A study in intellectual history, 1576-1612*, Oxford 1973
- Howard LOUTHAN, *Converting Bohemia. Force and persuasion in the Catholic Reformation*, Cambridge 2009
- Ivan T. BEREND, *History derailed. Central and Eastern Europe in the long nineteenth century*, Berkeley 2003
- Garry B. COHEN, *The Politics of Ethnic Survival: Germ*