

Central Europe: Shaping a Modern Culture

Instructor: Dr. Tomáš Hříbek
Office hours: by personal arrangement
Contact: tomas.hribek@cerge-ei.cz

Course Description:

This course will discuss the emergence of major modernist movements and ideas in the three Central European cities: Prague, Vienna and Budapest. In the period between the late 19th century and the beginning of the WW2, these cities were the main centers of the then disintegrating Austrian-Hungarian Empire and, later, the capitals of three independent states—Czechoslovakia, Austria and Hungary, respectively. Despite the political turmoil, all the three cities became a watershed of the ideas that remain to be the sources of the Western culture even today, including the dominant trends in the current North American culture. Thus, we shall see how the dominant ideas in the fields as diverse as **religion, philosophy, science, psychology, art** and **architecture** that have shaped the 20th century culture in the West can all be traced back to the works of the Austrian, Czech or Hungarian intellectuals such as Franz Brentano, Sigmund Freud, Adolf Loos and Georg Lukács. We shall have the extraordinary opportunity to study the fermentation of these ideas “on site,” in the very places in which these ideas originated.

Course Objectives:

To provide the students with a good grasp of the ideas that originated in the Central European region in the era of modernism, and an understanding of their historical as well as contemporary relevance. This is not an art history course, but a course on the history of ideas.

Structure:

The course will consist of lectures, seminar discussions of readings, and city walks and trips.

Requirements:

Students are required to attend all classes as well as out-of-class activities. The course is primarily structured around class discussions of readings, so that everybody is expected to follow those in order to be able to actively participate in discussions. There are both **required readings** and **optional readings**, the former are usually primary sources, while the latter are mostly secondary sources. Whatever lecturing about history and context of the ideas from the primary sources there is, it will be anchored in the optional readings. Thus, if students don't catch everything from lectures, they are strongly encouraged to go to the relevant optional readings as well as the required readings. Ahead of each class, study questions for the upcoming required reading will be sent out to students by email. Occasionally, questions that we shall have no time to tackle in class will be assigned as **homework** to be turned in in writing. The main work for the class will consist of a **paper** on a topic chosen from a list of suggested topics. The paper should not exceed 10 typed pages (excluding any documentation). The style of formatting is optional, but should be followed consistently. Finally, there will also be **two** multiple-choice in-class **exams** based on readings and lectures. Make-up exams will be allowed only in the case of medical or family emergencies. The same applies to late papers.

Academic Honesty:

Although the students are encouraged to exchange ideas in and outside class, everybody is required to submit their own work. That means that copying the work of other students or published materials is strictly prohibited.

Grading System:

Class participation/attendance	10%
Homeworks	10%
Mid-term exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Final paper	40%

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A	93-100	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

Course Schedule:

- R1** Course Reader 1 (Required Readings)
- R2** Course Reader 2 (Optional Readings)
- L** Library

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

UPCES Orientation Week

Week 2

Introduction.

Modernization and modernity in East Central Europe.

Modernization of Vienna, Prague and Budapest – architectural, cultural and social aspects.

HAVE READ:

Schorske, “The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism”, from Schorske (1981, 24-115) **(R1)**

Hanák, “Urbanization and Civilization: Vienna and Budapest in the Nineteenth Century”, from Hanák (1998, 3-43) **(R1)**

Švácha, “Modern Style in the Streets of Prague”, from Švácha (1995, 18-97) **(R1)**

OPTIONAL READING:

Janik and Toulmin, “Habsburg Vienna: City of Paradoxes”, from Janik and Toulmin (1973, 33-66) **(R2)**

Hanák, “The Garden and the Workshop: Reflections on Fin-de-Siecle Culture in Vienna and Budapest”, from Hanák (1998, 63-97) **(R2)**

Sayer, “Mirrors of Identity”, from Sayer (2000, 82-153) **(R2)**

Week 3

Franz Brentano and the Austrian tradition in philosophy.

Brentano and Franz Kafka.

Class trip to Café Louvre, the favorite hangout of the Prague Brentanists.

HAVE READ:

Brentano, “The Concept and Purpose of Psychology”, from Brentano (1973 [1874], 3-27) **(R1)**

Brentano, “The Distinction Between Mental and Physical Phenomena”, from Brentano (1973 [1874], 77-100) **(R1)**

Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (1995 [1915], 76-126) **(R1)**

OPTIONAL READING:

Smith, “Austrian Philosophy and the Brentano School”, from Smith (1994, 7-34) **(R2)**

Smith, “Kafka and Brentano: A Study in Descriptive Psychology”, from Smith (1981, 113-144) **(R2)**

Week 4

Ernst Mach on theory of science and T. G. Masaryk on modernity and suicide.

HAVE READ:

Mach, "Introductory Remarks: Antimetaphysical", from Mach (1959 [1886], 1-37) **(R1)**

Masaryk, "Civilization and the Tendency to Suicide", from Masaryk (1970 [1881], 140-220) **(R1)**

Masaryk, "Toward a Remedy for the Modern Suicide Tendency", from Masaryk (1970 [1881], 221-231) **(R1)**

OPTIONAL READING:

Janik and Toulmin, "Language, Ethics and Representation", from Janik and Toulmin (1973, 120-166, esp. 133-142) **(R2)**

Giddens, "Introduction", from Masaryk (1970, xix-xli) **(R2)**

Week 5

Sigmund Freud's new science of the mind.

HAVE READ:

Freud, "The Method of Interpreting Dreams", from Freud (1999 [1900], 78-97) **(R1)**

Freud, "The Dream is a Wish-Fulfilment", from Freud (1999 [1900], 98-105) **(R1)**

Freud, "Dream-Distortion", from Freud (1999 [1900], 106-125) **(R1)**

OPTIONAL READING:

Schorske, "Politics and Patricide in Freud's Interpretation of Dreams", from Schorske (1981, 181-207) **(R2)**

Hopkins, "The Interpretation of Dreams", from Neu (1991, 86-135) **(R2)**

Week 6

Otto Weininger on women and the Jews.

HAVE READ:

Weininger, "The Nature of Woman and Her Purpose in the Universe", from Weininger (2005 [1903],) **(R1)**

Weininger, "Judaism", from Weininger (2005 [1903],) **(R1)**

OPTIONAL READING:

Luft, "Otto Weininger's Vision of Gender and Modern Culture", from Luft (2003, 45-88) **(R2)**

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR THE MID-TERM EXAM MADE AVAILABLE IN CLASS.

Week 7

Freud on infantile and female sexuality

HAVE READ:

Freud, Three Essays on Sexual Theory (1905), from Freud (2006, 118-153)(**R2**)

OPTIONAL READING:

Chodorow, "Freud on Women", from Neu (1991, 224-248)(**R2**)

Week 8

MID-TERM EXAM IN CLASS.

Adolf Loos on modern design and urban lifestyle.

HAVE READ:

Loos, "Ornament and Crime" (1908) (**R1**)

OPTIONAL READING:

Colomina, "City", from Colomina (1994, 17-73) (**R2**)

Colomina, "Interior", from Colomina (1994, 233-280) (**R2**)

Week 9

Finis Austriae and Ludwig Wittgenstein on language, science and value.

OPTIONAL READING:

Moravánszky, "The Architecture of Social Reform", from Moravánszky (1998, 409-442) (**R2**)

Sayer, "Modernisms and Modernities", from Sayer (2000, 154-220) (**R2**)

HAVE READ:

Wittgenstein, "Lecture on Ethics", from Wittgenstein (1993 [1929], 37-44) (**R1**)

"Wissenschaftliche Weltfauffassung: Der Wiener Kreis" (1929) (**R1**)

OPTIONAL READING:

Janik and Toulmin, "The Tractatus Reconsidered: An Ethical Deed", from Janik and Toulmin (1973, 167-201) (**R2**)

Week 10

Georg Lukács on Marxism and totality, Karl Mannheim on ideology and utopia.

HAVE READ:

Lukács, “Class Consciousness”, from Lukács (1971 [1922], 46-86) (R1)

Mannheim, “The Utopian Mentality”, from Mannheim (1929) (R1)

OPTIONAL READING:

Lukács, “Introduction”, from Lukács (1974 1911) (R2)

Lukács, “Metaphysics of Tragedy”, from Lukács (1974 1911) (R2)

Congdon, “The Tragic Sense of Life: Lukács’s ‘The Soul and the Forms’”, from Nyíri (1981, 43-74) (R2)

Gluck, “The Sunday Circle”, from Gluck (1991) (R2)

Eagleton, “From Lukács to Gramsci” (2007, 93-123, esp. 93-106, 107-110) (R2)

Week 11

Karel Teige on Art and Architecture.

HAVE READ:

Teige, “Constructivism and the Liquidation of Art” (1926), from Teige (2000, 331-340) (R1)

Teige, “Introductory Remarks: Toward a Dialectic of Architecture and a Sociology of Dwelling”, from Teige (2002 [1932], 9-31) (R1)

OPTIONAL READING

Šváchá, “Scientific and Emotional Functionalism” (1995, 240-301) (R2)

TOPICS FOR THE FINAL PAPER AND STUDY QUESTIONS FOR THE FINAL EXAM MADE AVAILABLE IN CLASS.

Week 12

Sigmund Freud on religion and civilization.

HAVE READ:

Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents, from Freud (2002 [1930], 3-82) (R1)

OPTIONAL READING:

Deigh, “Freud’s Later Theory of Civilization: Changes and Implications”, from Neu (1991) (R2)

Week 13

FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS, FINAL EXAM IN CLASS.

Selected Bibliography in English:

Asterisked books are available from the CERGE Library.

Primary sources:

- *Ayer, A. J. (ed.) (1959). *Logical Positivism*, London.
- *Brentano, Franz (1973 [1874]). *Psychology from an Empirical Standpoint*, trans. by L. L. McAlister. London: Routledge.
- *Freud, Sigmund (2002 [1930]). *Civilization and Its Discontents*, introd. by Leo Bersani, trans. and ed. by David McLintock. London: Penguin.
- *_____ (1999 [1900]). *The Interpretation of Dreams*, trans. by Joyce Crick, ed. with notes by Ritchie Robertson. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- *_____ (2006). *The Psychology of Love*, introd. by Jeri Johnson, trans. by Shaun Whiteside. London: Penguin.
- Kraus, Karl (1984). *In These Great Times: A Karl Kraus Reader*, ed. by Harry Zohn, London: Carcanet.
- *Loos, Adolf (1982 [1921]). *Spoken into the Void: Collected Essays 1897-1900*, introd. by Aldo Rossi, trans. by Jane O. Newman and John H. Smith. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.
- *Lukács, Georg (1995). *The Lukács Reader*, ed. by Arpad Kadarkay. Oxford: Blackwell-Wiley.
- *_____ (2010 [1911]). *Soul and Form*, ed. by John T. Sanders and Katie Terezakis, intro. by Judith Butler. New York: Columbia University Press.
- *Mach, Ernst (1959 [1886]). *The Analysis of Sensations and the Relation of the Physical to the Psychological*, trans. by M. C. Williams, rev. by Sydney Waterlow. New York: Dover.
- _____ (1960 [1904]). *The Science of Mechanics: A Critical and Historical Account of Its Development*, trans. by Thomas J. McCormack. La Salle, Ill.: Open Court.
- Masaryk, Thomas G. (1972 [1898]). *Masaryk on Marx: An Abridged Edition of T. G. Masaryk, The Social Question*, trans. and ed. by Erazim Kohák. Bucknell University Press.
- _____ (1970 [1881]). *Suicide and the Meaning of Civilization*, introd. by Anthony Giddens, trans. by William B. Weist and Robert G. Batson. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Matejka, Ladislav and Irwin R. Titunik (eds.) (1984), *Semiotics of Art: Prague School Contributions*, Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.
- Menger, Karl (1994). *Principles of Economics*, Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press.
- Mises, Ludwig von (1985). *Liberalism in the Classical Tradition*, trans. by Ralph Raico. New York: The Foundation for Economic Education.
- Mukařovský, Jan (1977). *The Word and Verbal Art*, trans. by John Burbank and Peter Steiner. Yale University Press.
- _____ (1978). *Structure, Sign and Function*, trans. and ed. by John Burbank and Peter Steiner. Yale University Press.
- Musil, Robert (1995). *Precision and Soul: Essays and Addresses*, trans. by Burton Pike and David S. Luft. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- *Popper, Karl (1959 [1935]). *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*, London: Routledge.
- Riegl, Alois (2004 [1966]). *Historical Grammar of the Visual Arts*, introd. by Benjamin Binstock, trans. by Jacqueline E. Jung. New York: Zone Books.
- _____ (1992 [1893]). *Problems of Style: Foundations for a History of Ornament*, trans. by E. Kain. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Schoenberg, Arnold (1975 [1950]). *Style and Idea*, ed. by Leonard Stein, trans. by Leo Black. New York: St. Martin's Press.

- *Teige, Karel (2002 [1932]). *The Minimum Dwelling*, Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.
- *_____ (2000 [1947]). *Modern Architecture in Czechoslovakia and Other Essays*, Santa Monica, Cal.: Getty Foundation.
- Waismann, Friedrich (1979). *Ludwig Wittgenstein and the Vienna Circle*, ed. by B. F. McGuinness, Oxford: Blackwell.
- *Weininger, Otto (2005 [1903]). *Sex and Character: An Investigation of Fundamental Principles*, trans. by Ladislaus Lob, Daniel Steuer and Laura Marcus, Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
- *Wittgenstein, Ludwig (1961 [1919]). *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, trans. by D. F. Pears and B. F. McGuinness, with and introd. by Bertrand Russell. London: Routledge.
- *Wolff, Kurt H. (ed.) (1993). *From Karl Mannheim*, with an Intro. by Volker Meja and David Kettler. New York: Transaction Publ.
- Wood, Christopher (ed.) (2003). *Vienna School Reader: Politics and Art Historical Method in the 1930s*, New York: Zone Books.
- Zweig, Stefan (1943 [1942]). *The World of Yesterday: An Autobiography*, trans. anonymous, New York: Viking Press.

The dates in the square brackets indicate the first edition in the original language.

Secondary sources:

- *Anderson, Mark M. (1992). *Kafka's Clothes: Ornament and Aestheticism in the Habsburg Fin-de-Siecle*, Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Blackmore, J. T., R. Itagaki and S. Tanaka (eds.) (2001). *Ernst Mach's Vienna 1895-1930: Or Phenomenalism as Philosophy of Science*, Dordrecht: Kluwer.
- *Colomina, Beatriz (1994). *Privacy and Publicity: Modern Architecture as Mass Media*, Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.
- *Dluhosch, Eric and Rostislav Švácha (eds.) (1999). *Karel Teige 1900 – 1951: L'Enfant terrible of the Czech Modernist Avant-garde*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.
- Eagleton, Terry (2007). *Ideology: An Introduction*. New and Updated Ed., London and New York: Verso.
- Gay, Peter (1988). *Freud: A Life for Our Time*, London: Dent.
- _____ (2002). *Schnitzler's Century: The Making of Middle-Class Culture 1815-1914*, New York: W. W. Norton.
- Gluck, Mary (1991). *Georg Lukács and His Generation, 1900-1918*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Grassl, Wolfgang and Barry Smith (eds.) (1986). *Austrian Economics: Historical and Philosophical Background*, London: Croom Helm.
- Haller, Rudolf (1988). *Questions on Wittgenstein*, London: Routledge.
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- *Johnston, William (1972). *The Austrian Mind*, Berkeley, Cal.: University of California Press.
- *Kolakowski, Leszek (2008). *Main Currents of Marxism: The Founders, the Golden Age, the Breakdown*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

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- Monk, Ray (1990). *Wittgenstein: The Duty of Genius*, London: Jonathan Cape.
- *Moravánszky, Ákos (1998). *Competing Visions: Aesthetic Invention and Social Imagination in Central European Architecture 1867-1918*, Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press.
- Morton, Frederic (1979). *A Nervous Splendour: Vienna 1888-1889*, New York: Penguin.
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- *Neu, Jerome (ed.) (1991). *The Cambridge Companion to Freud*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Nyíri, J. C. (ed.) (1981). *Austrian Philosophy: Studies and Texts*, Munich: Philosophia.
- Pynsent, Robert (ed.) (1989). *Decadence and Innovation: Austro-Hungarian Life and Art at the Turn of the Century*, London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson.
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