

Architecture in Prague:

Mirror of Art, History, and Spiritual Values

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Course Description:

This course explores the major artistic periods of European history through their architectural expression in Prague. It is built around guided excursions to some of Prague's most beautiful and historically significant architectural monuments, interpreted within the broader context of Central European cultural history. Throughout history, shared spiritual and cultural values have profoundly shaped artistic and architectural forms. The course therefore places particular emphasis on the spiritual and social values underlying individual artistic movements. In this respect, Prague offers a unique and exceptionally rich architectural landscape. Through introductory presentations followed by guided site visits, students will learn not only to identify the principal artistic styles, but also to analyze and interpret the cultural values they embody.

Course Objectives:

The course will provide students with an overview of the most important European artistic and architectural periods through the lens of Prague and 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 excursions to relevant sites in Prague. The course is open to everyone 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 resources (available online). Other requirements include topical presentation and a final project.

Grading Policy:

Class participation	20%
Topical presentation	25%
Midterm test	20%
Final project	35%

Mandatory Completion Policy

Note that all mandatory assignments and exams must be completed to the best of your ability in order for your

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

final grade to be issued. Failure to complete a mandatory assignment or exam may result in a failing grade.

AEP 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

AEP Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy

The AEP 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 characteristics, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

AEP Diversity Policy

AEP is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming community that values diversity in all its forms. We believe that one of the most meaningful lessons of studying abroad is learning to navigate and appreciate differences with curiosity and an open mind. While engaging across differences can sometimes be challenging or uncomfortable, these moments are essential for growth and learning. We recognize that every member of our community, even with the best intentions, may occasionally make missteps. Our commitment is to provide a supportive environment where respectful and honest dialogue helps us learn from these experiences, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive and broaden their perspective.

Weekly Schedule

Session 1

CEE and AEP Introductory Lecture Series

Session 2

Course Introduction

Thematic Introduction and Historical Overview

Session 3

Roman and Romanesque: Values and Art

Tour: Romanesque Artistic Roots

Session 4

Medieval Spirituality in Gothic Architecture

Tour: Gothic Themes in Old Town Prague

Session 5

Renaissance Idea and Architecture

Tour: Renaissance Townhouses and Residences

Session 6

Spiritual Grandeur and Beauty of Baroque

Tour: The Best Baroque Sacral Architecture

Session 7

Neoclassicism: Rediscovering the Values of Antiquity

Tour: Neoclassicist Pearls of the Prague City Center

Session 8

Revivalism and Principles of Romanticism

Tour: Neo-Gothic and Neo-Renaissance Collection

Session 9

Novelty of Art Nouveau

Tour: From Mucha Style to Municipal House

Session 10

Art Deco and the Perspective of Cubism

Tour: Czech Rondocubism and Art Deco

Session 11

Progressive Ideas of Modernism

Tour: From Sacred Heart to Brutalism

Session 12

New Paradigms of Postmodernism

Tour: Flagship of Prague's Postmodern Design

Session 13

Special Themes, Summary, and Conclusion

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