### Instructor Details

Jan Machacek  
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00420 603 488 472  
Office hours, after class or TBA via email or phone

### Class Details

**Reporting the Arts – SPRING 2015**  
Tuesday 12 – 1:20pm, Thursday 12 – 1:20pm  
Location to be confirmed.

### Class Description

This course, as its name suggests, will focus on providing students with a knowledge of reporting the arts. Students should learn how to write a profile of an artist, how to write a review of his/her work and how to write an essay about a particular cultural or artistic topic.

Students should also deliver a piece of travel writing based on their travel experiences during the semester. Students will learn how to pick interesting topics and details while travelling.

Guest speakers visiting the class (or their work) will serve as subjects for students for their written assignments.

Beyond the above, this course will provide students with an insight into the contemporary Czech art world, since the guest speakers (film makers, photographers, writers, sculptors) represent the best in their particular fields. The professor himself also has an in-depth knowledge of Prague’s culture scene. Students will have the chance to visit exhibits and will get numerous recommendations for cultural events.

And lastly – students will have a chance to understand the difference between the life of an artist and journalist under totalitarian communist regime before 1989 and now in a democracy, since most of the speakers and artists have a first hand experience with both.

### Desired Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should have improved their writing skills, they should be able to write a good profile, review, and essays and they should leave Prague enriched with having a chance to meet the very best from Prague cultural scene.

### Assessment Components

- Active participation (this is a must in class!!) and attendance = 40 %  
- Assignment 1 (Profile) = 6%  
- Assignment 2 (Profile 2) = 6%  
- Assignment 3 (Profile 3) = 6%  
- Assignment 4 (Review) = 6%  
- Assignment 5 (Travel Writing piece) = 6%  
- Total for all short assignments = 30%  
- Final paper = 30%  
Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Be as specific as possible about your expectations regarding student work

### Assessment Expectations

**Grade A:** Excellent work, student has actively participated in class, engaged with guest speakers and has always been prepared for speaker’s visits by reading about them and having questions ready. It is necessary for reporters to be active, informed and attentive.

**Grade B:** Good work and solid participation in class.

**Grade C:** Adequate work and participation in class.

**Grade D:** Poor work, sub-par participation in class.

**Grade F:** Consistent failure to produce work or participate in class.
Grade conversion

A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

Attendance Policy

Absences only for medical reasons and for religious observance will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor’s note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). To be excused for religious observance, you must contact the instructor and the Associate Director via e-mail one week in advance of the holiday. Your absence is excused for the holiday only and does not include days of travel associated with the holiday. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

Late Submission of Work

Negotiable only in special circumstances

Plagiarism Policy

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as though it were one’s own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one’s own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer’s work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student’s intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science’s Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“Presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else’s idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” (Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)

Required Text(s)

Mostly available in reader, to be found in NYU Prague library.

Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-P Library)

Mostly available in reader, to be found in NYU Prague library.
Before any guest visit in class, students will focus on any available information about him/her on the Internet and do the necessary research as if a professional journalist preparing for an interview.

Overview, description of course and expectations.

Session 1
Tuesday, Feb 3

Session 2
Thursday, Feb 5

Session 3
Tuesday, Feb 10

Session 4
Thursday, Feb 12

Session 5
Tuesday, Feb 17

Session 6
Thursday, Feb 19

Session 7
Tuesday, Feb 24

Session 8
Thursday, Feb 26

Session 9
Tuesday, March 3

Session 10
Thursday, March 5

Session 11
Tuesday, March 10

Session 12
Thursday, March 12

Session 13
Tuesday, March 17

Session 14
Thursday, March 19

Session 15
Tuesday, March 24

Session 16
Thursday,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 17</th>
<th>Travel Writing piece due, visit to Sudek’s atelier</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday,</td>
<td>March 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 18</td>
<td>Workshopping of travel writing papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday,</td>
<td>April 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 19</td>
<td>Actress Halka Tresnakova visits class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday,</td>
<td>April 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 20</td>
<td>Prof. Machacek discusses his experiences with underground journalism and underground music and the birth of independent media after the 1989 revolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday,</td>
<td>April 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 21</td>
<td>Visit to Libri Prohibiti library, which is an archive of underground publishing, Jiri Gruntorad, director of the library will show us around.</td>
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<td>Tuesday,</td>
<td>April 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 22</td>
<td>Profiles of Gruntorad and Tresnakova due. Machacek concludes lecture on media transformation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday,</td>
<td>April 23</td>
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<td>Session 23</td>
<td>Gallery visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday,</td>
<td>April 28</td>
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<td>Session 24</td>
<td>Curator and Journalism Tomas Pospiszyl visits class to discuss Czech fine arts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday,</td>
<td>April 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 25</td>
<td>Workshopping of Gruntorad and Tresnakova profiles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday,</td>
<td>May 5</td>
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<td>Session 26</td>
<td>David Cerny, sculptor will either visit class or we will visit his Meet factory.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday,</td>
<td>May 7</td>
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<td>Session 27</td>
<td>Architect Martin Rajnis visits class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday,</td>
<td>May 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 28</td>
<td>Discussion of Cerny and Rajnis visits. Instruction regarding final essay, essay topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday,</td>
<td>May 14 (last day of classes)</td>
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<td>Session 29</td>
<td>Cerny and Rajnis essays due</td>
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<td>Tuesday,</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 30</td>
<td>Final essays due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday,</td>
<td>May 21</td>
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**Classroom Etiquette**

Students must come to class on time, especially as a sign of respect for the guest speakers who are generously sharing their time with us. Students need to be informed about the guest speakers and are
always required to do extensive research on guests in advance.