

NYU Prague

ARTH-UA9662P02

Czech Art and Architecture

Fall 2018

Instructor Information

- **Simon North, MA**
- **Email:** sfn1@nyu.edu
- **Office hours:** Brief discussions after class or by arrangement via email
- **Telephone:** (for field trips only): 732 189 253

Course Information

- ARTH-UA9662P02
- **Czech Art and Architecture**
- Co-requisite or prerequisite: none
- **Tuesday 12:00-2:50**
 - Kupka - RD

Course Overview and Goals

This course presents a survey of art and architecture in Prague and its environs – from the Middle Ages to the modern era – with an emphasis on key periods in Czech history, and placed within the context of the main periods and movements of Western art history.

The course is rooted in a discussion of the city of Prague, and students are encouraged, through excursions and assignments, to become acquainted with the city's architecture, monuments and urban design.

Students learn to analyse formal aspects of art and architectural styles, and are encouraged to investigate their sources and theoretical foundations.

Emphasis is given to the historical and cultural context of art styles and movements. We also look at art patronage in some key periods of Czech history to see how this reflects political, cultural and ideological change.

Classroom lectures are combined with regular field trips to examine works of art and architecture at first hand. These include architectural walking tours and visits to temporary exhibitions as well as the city's major art galleries.

Expectations

- It is an advantage (but not necessary) to have some background in the humanities.
- You should be prepared for a course that depends on your skills of observation, description and analysis, where attention to detail goes hand-in-hand with the discussion of broader concepts and theories.
- It is assumed that students who take this course are curious and motivated to explore the place where they are studying (above all the city of Prague, its buildings, monuments and art collections), which requires a commitment beyond class time.
- You should be ready to take some initiative in discovering and selecting your own topics for analysis in assignments.

- You should be prepared to tolerate of all kinds of weather conditions on field trips.
- You should be committed to reading required texts.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Analyse and interpret works of visual art.
- Understand key periods and movements in the history of Western art and architecture.
- Identify and explain art and architectural styles and relate them to their historical context.
- Broadly understand how artistic production reflects political context and social change.
- Understand key developments in Czech art and architecture within the relevant periods of Czech history.
- Understand the architectural and urbanistic evolution of the city of Prague.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Active class participation: 10% Participation grade includes making an active contribution to class discussions, consulting with the instructor regarding assignments, turning up at the correct time and place for field trips.

Response Papers

Two Response Papers (750-1000 words, double-spaced, with bibliography). These should demonstrate your observation, description, analysis, and interpretation of original works of art or architecture (not reproductions). The papers will be on topics of your own choice, but these must be approved by the instructor.

*[For more detailed instructions and guidelines, please see the documents **What Is A Response Paper?** and **Assignment Instructions on NYU Classes.**]*

Presentation

Each student is asked to give **one short presentation (approx. 10-15 mins.)** on a topic approved by the instructor, related to art and architecture in the Czech Lands and its context. A list of suggested topics will be provided.

Tests & Quizzes

There will be **two scheduled tests (October 2 and November 6)** each worth 10% of the final grade, plus one or two “pop quizzes” (10%). Tests include multiple choice questions, short answer responses to images. Quizzes can include architectural and art historical terminology.

Final

The final may include multiple choice questions, short answer responses to images, and a choice of essay topics.

*For more detailed instructions and expectations regarding course work, please see the document **Assignment Instructions on NYU Classes.***

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Active class participation	10%
Tests and Quizzes (scheduled tests October 2 and November 6)	30%
Presentation	10%
2 Response Papers (October 23 and December 11)	30% (15% each)
Final Test (December 18)	20%

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percent
A	95%-100%
A-	90%-94.99%
B+	87%-89.99%
B	84%-86.99%
B-	80%-83.99%
C+	77%-79.99%
C	74%-76.99%
C-	70%-73.99%
D+	67%-69.99%
D	64%-66.99%
D-	60% - 63.99%
F	59.99% and lower

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent work demonstrating a critical and observant approach to the subject, sound research and an ability to express ideas clearly and persuasively. Written work shows an understanding of the key themes and concepts studied, with relevant examples, derived from readings as well as class lectures and field trips. Attention to answering specific questions in exams.

A straight 'A' grade is reserved for work which meets the above standards and shows both exceptional attention to relevant detail and originality of thought.

Grade B: Very good to good work. Student participates in class discussions and shows some insight. Written work is well structured and researched but falls short of the highest level.

Grade C: Satisfactory work. Has done necessary class work but lacks individual insight and active class involvement. Written work accurate but not original or critical.

Grade D: Passable work. Meets minimum requirements, but may be partially inaccurate.

Grade F: Fails to meet the requirements.

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Tuesday, September 4	<p>Overview of the course Myths & legends Historical background: Establishment of the Czech state (Přemyslid dynasty) The Holy Roman Empire Romanesque art and architecture</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING: Bažant, Bažantová, Starn (ed.), <i>The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics</i>, pgs 1-25 (25 pages) RECOMMENDED: Kemp, Martin, <i>Art in History</i> (chapter 1) Benešová et al.: intro. to <i>Architecture of the Romanesque (Ten Centuries of Architecture, vol. 1)</i> (26 pages)</p>	
Session 2 Tuesday, September 11	<p>Introduction to Gothic art and architecture Gothic Prague (Late Přemyslid and Luxemburg dynasties) Art at the Court of Emperor Charles IV</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING: Agnew, Hugh: <i>The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown</i>, pgs 3-26, 29-38 (32 pages) Bažant, Bažantová, Starn (ed.), <i>The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics</i>, pgs 26-38 (12 pages) Kemp, Martin, <i>Art in History</i> (chapter 2) FURTHER READING: Benešová et al.: <i>Ten Centuries of Architecture, vol.2, Gothic</i>, pgs 11-45, 56-63, 66-71, 78-83 (51 pages inc. illustrations)</p>	SIGN UP FOR PRESENTATIONS
Session 3 Tuesday, September 18	<p>Please meet in front of Estates Theatre - To be confirmed Field trip: Walking tour of Old Town/New Town, Tyn Church, St Agnes Convent (Anežský klášter, U Milosrdných 17, Praha 1) Gothic architecture Gothic painting and sculpture at the Courts of Emperor Charles IV and Václav IV</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING: Chlumská, Štěpánka (ed.), <i>Bohemia & Central Europe 1200-1550</i>, pgs 21-56 (35 pages) Royt, Jan: <i>Medieval Painting in Bohemia</i>, pgs 52-57 (6 pages) Fajt, Jiří /Royt, Jan: <i>Magister Theodoricus: Court Painter of Emperor Charles IV</i>, pgs 52-54 (2 pages) FURTHER READING: Crossley, Paul, Opacic, Zoe, <i>Prague as a New Capital</i>, in Boehm, Barbara Drake /Fajt, Jiří (eds.), <i>Prague, The Crown of Bohemia</i>, pgs 59-72 (13 pages)</p>	Homework assignment for field trip (Details to be announced)

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 4 Tuesday, September 25	Please meet at Charles Bridge (Old Town Bridge Tower) - To be confirmed Field trip: Prague Castle: Basilica of St George; Cathedral of St Vitus; Old Royal Palace	REQUIRED READING: Soukupová, H.: extract from <i>The Grove Dictionary of Art</i> [ed. Turner] (6 pages) Benešová & Hlobil: <i>Peter Parler and St Vitus' Cathedral, 1356-1399</i> , p 24-25 (1 page) Coldstream, Nicola: <i>Medieval Architecture</i> , pgs 196-201 (5 pages)	Homework assignment for field trip (Details to be announced)
Session 5 Tuesday, October 2	TEST # 1 (Details to be announced) [Historical background: The Bohemian Reform movement, the Hussite Wars (1419-1434) and their aftermath] Renaissance art and architecture: background	REQUIRED READING: Agnew, Hugh: <i>The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown</i> , pgs 39-54 (15 pages) Kemp, Martin, <i>Art in History</i> (chapter 3) Nichols, Tom, <i>Renaissance Art: A Beginner's Guide</i> Sutton, Ian, <i>Western Architecture</i> , chapter 5, esp. Pgs 126-136 (10 pages)	TEST # 1 (Details to be announced)
Session 6 Tuesday, October 9	Late Gothic / Early Renaissance art /architecture in Prague (Jagiellonian dynasty) Renaissance architecture in Prague (Habsburg dynasty)	REQUIRED READING: Bažant, Bažantová, Starn (ed.), <i>The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics</i> , pgs 47-57 (10 pages) Kaufmann, Thomas da Costa: <i>Court, Cloister & City</i> , pgs 51-66, 139-165 (41 pages) Nichols, Tom, <i>Renaissance Art: A Beginner's Guide</i>	
Fall Break October 13-21	Fall Break		
Session 7 Tuesday, October 23	Art at the Court of Emperor Rudolf II (circa 1600) – Rudolf II as patron and collector The Emperor's Artists: "The School of Prague"	REQUIRED READING: Agnew, Hugh: <i>The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown</i> , pgs 55-67 (12 pages) Bažant, Bažantová, Starn (ed.), <i>The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics</i> , pgs 67-81 (14 pages) Marshall, Peter: <i>The Mercurial Emperor</i> , pgs 43-86 (43 pages) FURTHER READING: Kaufmann, Thomas da Costa: <i>Court, Cloister & City</i> , pgs 167-203 (36 pages)	PAPER # 1 DUE

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 8 Tuesday, October 30	<p>The Counter-Reformation Introduction to Baroque art and architecture [Historical background: The Estates Uprising (1618-1620); The Battle of White Mountain / Bila hora (1620) and its aftermath] Baroque art and architecture in Habsburg Prague</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING: Agnew, Hugh: <i>The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown</i>, pgs. 68-80 (12 pages) Kemp, Martin, <i>Art in History</i> (chapter 4) Martin, John Rupert: <i>Baroque</i>, pgs 11-17 (6 pages) FURTHER READING: Sutton, Ian: <i>Western Architecture</i>, chapter 6, pgs 168-198 (30 pages)</p>	
Session 9 Tuesday, November 6	<p>Please meet at Charles Bridge (Old Town Bridge Tower) - To be confirmed Baroque Prague TEST # 2 (Details to be announced)</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING: Bažant, Bažantová, Starn (ed.), <i>The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics</i>, pgs 83-110 (27 pages) Kaufmann, Thomas da Costa: <i>Court, Cloister & City</i>, pgs 249-255, 341-365 (30 pages)</p>	<p>TEST # 2 (Details to be announced)</p>
Make-up Day Friday, November 9 (9am-5pm)	<p>Make-up day for missed classes</p>		
Session 10 Tuesday, November 13	<p>[Historical background: Josef II and the Age of Reform] Overview of later 18th and 19th century art and architecture: Rococo, Neoclassicism The Czech National Revival</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING: Kemp, Martin, <i>Art in History</i> (chapter 5 and 6) Agnew, Hugh: <i>The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown</i> pgs 83-101 (18 pages) FURTHER READING (Background to the Enlightenment in Central Europe): Bažant, Bažantová, Starn (ed.), <i>The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics</i>, pgs 111-142 (31 pages) Kaufmann, Thomas da Costa: <i>Court, Cloister & City</i>, pgs 441-464 (23 pages) END OF READER PART I</p>	
Session 11 Tuesday, November 20	<p>19th century art movements: Romanticism, Realism, Impressionism Art and nationalism Urban development and renewal in the 19th century Architecture from</p>	<p>REQUIRED READING: Kemp, Martin, <i>Art in History</i> (chapter 7) Agnew, Hugh: <i>The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown</i>, pgs 102-123, 140-145, 154-161 (33 pages)</p>	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
	Historicism to Art Nouveau	Huig, Michael: "From Provincial Capital to Metropolis" in : <i>Prague 1900: Poetry and Ecstasy</i> , pgs 9-21 (13 pages) Alofsin, Anthony, <i>When Buildings Speak</i> , pgs 30-43 (13 pages) FURTHER READING: Bažant, Bažantová, Starn (ed.), <i>The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics</i> , pgs 145-155, 187-205 (28 pages) Sutton, Ian: <i>Western Architecture</i> , chapter 8 (36 pages) Gellner, Ernest, <i>Nationalism</i> , pgs 66-71 (5 pages)	
Session 12 Tuesday, November 27	Art of the fin de siecle: Symbolism and Art Nouveau Early 20th century avant-garde art: Expressionism, Cubism; Abstract art Czech Cubist architecture	REQUIRED READING: Kemp, Martin, <i>Art in History</i> (chapter 8) Greenhalgh, Paul (ed.): <i>Art Nouveau</i> , pgs 15-32, 73-90 (36 pages) Lamarová, Milena: "The New Art in Prague"(361-373 in Greenhalgh,(ed.): <i>Art Nouveau</i>) (13 pages) Urban, Otto M., <i>Mysterious Distances: Symbolism and Art in the Bohemian Lands, 1880-1914</i> , pgs 9-21, 133-141 (27 pages) Wittlich, Petr: „Towards a New Synthesis“ in Huig, (ed.), <i>Prague 1900: Poetry and Ecstasy</i> , pp 58-99 (41 pages inc. illustrations) von Vegesack (ed.): <i>Czech Cubism</i> , pgs 12-20, 53-54 (11 pages) FURTHER READING: Sutton, Ian: <i>Western Architecture</i> , pgs 290-303, chapter 9 (14 pages) Escritt, Stephen: <i>Art Nouveau</i> , pgs 97-104, 319-323, 383-396 (32 pages inc. illustrations) Moravansky: <i>Competing Visions: Aesthetic Invention and Social Imagination in Central European Architecture, 1867-1918</i> ,	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		chapter 8 (31 pages inc. illustrations)	
Session 13 Tuesday, December 4	Field trip: National Gallery at the Trade Fair Palace / Veletržní Palác Late 19th and early 20th Century Czech Painting and Sculpture Art and architecture in Czechoslovakia during the First Republic (1918-1938)	REQUIRED READING: Mansbach, Steven: <i>Modern Art in Eastern Europe</i> , pgs 9-82 (71 pages) Sayer, Derek: <i>The Coasts of Bohemia: A Czech History</i> , pgs 196-220 (24 pages) Šmejkal /Elliott: <i>Devětsil: The Czech avant-garde of the 1920s & 1930s</i> , pgs 18-26 (8 pages) [scan] FURTHER READING: Bažant, Bažantová, Starn (ed.), <i>The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics</i> , pgs 239-257 (18 pages) Sutton, Ian: <i>Western Architecture</i> , pgs 317-353 (36 pages inc. illustrations)	
Session 14 Tuesday, December 11 (last day of classes)	Art and architecture in Czechoslovakia during the First Republic (1918-1938) The Communist era (1948-1989)	REQUIRED READING: Sayer, Derek: <i>The Coasts of Bohemia: A Czech History</i> , pgs 270-282 (12 pages) Agnew, Hugh: <i>The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown</i> pgs 233-260 (28 pages) Foster /Krauss /Bois /Buchloh: <i>Art Since 1900</i> , pgs 260-265 (5 pages) FURTHER READING: Agnew, Hugh: <i>The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown</i> chapters 14, 15 (46 pages) Sutton, Ian: <i>Western Architecture</i> , pgs 344-346 (2 pages) Paces, Cynthia: <i>Prague Panoramas</i> , chapters 8, 10	PAPER # 2 DUE
Session 15 Tuesday, December 18	Final exam		

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- **Course Reader:** *Czech Art & Architecture*. Assembled by Simon North. New York University 2012. The reader (available from the library) is in two parts: Part I (weeks 1-7), Part II (weeks 8-14).
- The reader includes required and some recommended readings. Books from which readings are taken (as well as other recommended titles) are available on reserve in the NYU Prague library.
- Bažant, Bažantová, Starn (ed.), [The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics](#), 2010 ISBN 978 0 8223 4794 1 [Available online (NYU Library) <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/nyulibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1172309>]
- Kemp, Martin, *Art in History*, 2016 SBN 978N178125 3366

Supplemental Text (not required to purchase, copies available in NYU P Library)

- Various authors, *Ten centuries of Architecture* (6 vols.). Prague Castle Administration and DaDa, Prague 2001
- Nichols, Tom, *Renaissance Art: A Beginner's Guide*, 2010 ISBN-10: 1851687246
- Insert optional textbook or material name

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](http://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](http://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](http://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)
- **NYU Prague library:** [Tritius Catalog](https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN) (https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

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 Academic 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 2% percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

Please note that Friday, November 9 (9am – 5pm) is reserved as a make-up day for missed classes. Do not schedule any trips for this day.

Late Submission of Work

Assignments should be uploaded to NYU Classes, or (if required) hard copies handed in at the start of class on the due date.

Late work will incur a penalty of 5% if submitted within three days, 10% within seven days. Work more than one week late will not be accepted unless an extension has been agreed due to exceptional and unavoidable circumstances.

If you miss a quiz due to exceptional and unavoidable circumstances and are granted the opportunity to make it up, this must be completed within one week of the original date of the quiz. You should inform the instructor of your circumstances before the test where possible.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

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)**

Classroom Etiquette

- No eating in class.
- No coming and going during class. Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.
- Any student who comes to class in a drunk or otherwise intoxicated state will be sent home.
- Computers and tablets can be used but only for note-taking. Your device should not be connected to the internet during class. Also, please note: During slide lectures you may sometimes be asked to switch off your computer or tablet so that you can participate in class discussion of projected images.
- Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class or on field trips except for emergencies.
- Please be prepared for field trips by making sure to turn up on time at the correct place and not delaying the whole group. I will advise on how to get to the meeting point.

If you have to leave early from a field trip to get to another class, please inform me both in advance and when you are leaving.

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.