

NYU Prague

CORE-UA9731P01

Expressive Culture: Prague Music Field Study Fall 2018

Instructor Information

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Course Information

- Number: CORE-UA9731P01
- Name: Expressive Culture: Prague Music Field Study
- Meets: Wednesdays, 1:30 - 4:20
 - Hrabal Classroom, RD

Course Overview and Goals

This is a chance to immerse yourself in the musical culture of Prague. You will attend five music performances together with the class and one on your own. Each of the concerts will be in a different style, and performed in a different sort of venue. Each concert will be preceded by a lecture/listening session, often involving the actual performers; you will also be assigned a reading excerpt relevant to the music you will hear. The concerts, scheduled about once every two weeks on evenings between Mondays and Wednesdays, will be supplemented by architecture walks and museum visits, which will take place during class time.

In addition, you will undertake a Personal Connection Project („PCP“), in groups of two or three, in which you will choose a local genre, performer or composer to research. The research will include reading relevant contextual material, attendance at a live concert or rehearsal, and an interview with a performer. You will share your project with the class in an oral presentation, which will take place in the second half of the semester.

You will summarize your experience of Prague through the course in three graded papers, in lieu of midterm and final exams.

As a Core Course, this experience may be the first in-depth experience of music for you, but it is also suitable for music majors and those with a long experience of music; we address the relationship of music to the surrounding culture, and ask big questions concerning the role of music in human life.

The course uses diverse formats: lectures, discussions, field trips, interviews, performances, etc.

Course goals:

- to experience Prague in depth through her music and unique spaces
- to widen your range of experience in hearing diverse musical genres
- to draw conclusions about the relationship of the arts to their surrounding culture
- to develop your ability to talk and write about music
- to attain a deeper understanding of the unique power of music in human life

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

- Express their progress in all five of the above goals in written and oral form, with introspection and detail.

Course Requirements

- attendance at all concerts outside of class time (maximum of five per semester)
- weekly short readings and brief responses
- 3 concert reflections (1000 words)
- 2 midterm papers (2000 words each)
- 1 final TED Talk script (1500 words)
- 1 oral presentation (10-15 min. per person)
- (no midterm or final exams)

Class Participation

Because the class meets only once a week, maintaining the NYU Attendance Policy is crucial. All students are expected to take part in discussion, and to not open laptops or look at cell phones during class.

Assignment 1

Weekly short readings, listening excerpts and brief responses on NYU Classes

Assignment 2

Midterm papers, 2000 words each

Assignment 3

Three concert reflections, 1000 words each

Assignment 4

Oral presentation in small group, 10-15 minutes/person

Assignment 5

Final TED Talk script, 1500 words

Tests & Quizzes

Occasional brief quizzes and reading checks in class

Grading of Assignments

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

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Short reading responses, quizzes	15%
Two midterm papers, 2000 wds. each	30%
Three concert reflections, 1000 wds. each	20%
Oral Presentation	10%
Final TED Talk script (1500 wds.)	10%
Class participation, effort, progress	15%

The above percentages are rough guidelines only

Grade A: Student makes outstanding* progress towards understanding and expressing the course concepts

Grade B: Student makes good progress towards understanding and expressing the course concepts

Grade C: Student makes some progress towards understanding and expressing the course concepts

Grade D: Student makes little progress towards understanding and expressing the course concepts

Grade F: Student makes no progress towards understanding and expressing the course concepts

*Instructor will provide detailed rubrics for graded work to help the student understand the criteria for assessing students' progress: percentages do not apply in this course.

Assessment Expectations

Graded assignments will be returned on NYU Classes with detailed comments

Course Schedule:

Please note that the schedule below is a draft. Dates of concerts and assignments may change, and one concert may be added. In that event, you will be given at least two weeks' notice.

Topics and Assignments

Concerts outside of regular class hours are written in bold type.

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Wednesday, September 5	--Introduction: syllabus, concerts, assignments, grading, questionnaires, etc. --walk through Old Town	N/A	
Session 2 Wednesday, September 12	-- discuss reading, Listening Log (all following classes will include discussions on previous week's readings and events) -- Lecture: <i>Writing About Music, Musical Elements #1</i> Concert #1: Jazz Trio at AgHarta Jazz Club, 6-7:30	-- Ivan Klima, <i>The Spirit of Prague</i> -- Paul Wilson, <i>A Prague Chronology</i>	-- <i>Music Listening Log</i> --quiz on <i>Prague Chronology</i>
Session 3 Wednesday, September 19	--Lecture: <i>Social and Cultural Contexts</i> --Architecture walk #1: Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque	-- Music reviews online	-- Concert Reflection #1 on Jazz Trio
Session 4 Wednesday, September 26	-- Baroque architecture walk with organ demo in Loreta Church	-- Joseph Kerman, "The Late Baroque Period", pp.110- 118	-- Brief responses to cultural contexts questions
Session 5 Wednesday, October 3	-- Lecture: <i>Musical Elements #2 + Baroque style</i> Concert #2: Moravian Folk Ensemble, 5-6:30 p.m.		Graded paper #1: Architecture walk letter (due Friday, Oct. 5)
Session 6 Wednesday, October 10	-- Discussion on reading -- Lecture: Dvorak and <i>Rusalka</i> .	-- Bazant, <i>From National Self-Determination to Cosmopolitanism, 1867- 1918</i> -- K.J Erben, <i>The Water Sprite</i>	-- Concert Reflection #2 on Folk Ensemble -- in-class responses to reading
Fall Break October 13-21	Fall Break		
Session 7 Wednesday, October 24	-- Tour of National Theater, 3-4 p.m Concert #3: Dvorak's opera <i>Rusalka</i> at National Theater, 7 P.M.	-- <i>Rusalka</i> reading/listening excerpts	notes on <i>Rusalka</i> listening

Session 8 Wednesday, October 31	Lecture: -- Zemlinsky Quartet preparation -- <i>Musical elements #3</i> -- <i>The Classic Period</i>		Concert Reflection #3 on Dvorak's <i>Rusalka</i>
Session 9 Wednesday, November 7	-- Lecture: The Romantic Period Concert #3: Zemlinsky Quartet, 7-8:30 RD	-- Zemlinsky Qt. reading/listening excerpts	Listening Quiz notes on Zemlinsky Qt.listening
Make-up Day Friday, November 9 (9am-5pm)	Make-up day for missed classes		
Session 10 Wednesday, November 14	PCP Presentation Group A: National Gallery visit	-- Kerman, <i>19th-Century Romanticism</i>	--notes on Zemlinsky Quartet performance --Paper #2 proposal
Session 11 Wednesday, November 21	PCP Presentations Groups B,C Concert: Iva Bittova, 3-4:20 (during class time)		Graded paper #2: My Path to a Masterpiece (due Friday, Nov.23)
Session 12 Wednesday, November 28	PCP Presentations Groups D,E,F	-- Ackerman: <i>The Buchta Theory and the Perina Syndrome</i>	-- Ackerman article responses
Session 13 Wednesday, December 5	PCP Groups G,H,I	Alex Ross: <i>Listen to This</i>	-- Alex Ross article responses
Session 14 Wednesday, December 12 (last day of classes)	PCP Groups J,K Attend one of the two NYU final concerts (day and time TBA)		Paper #3: Proposal/Outline
Session 15 Wednesday, December 19	Closure class (required)*	Lecture/discussion: <i>Why Make Music?</i>	Graded paper #3: TED talk on "The Power of Music"

Please note: we do not have a final exam in this course, but **attendance at the Closure class on December 19th is required**. Please do not make travel plans for that day.

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- Instructor will distribute or post relevant readings and listening links each week. Below are some of the sources from which short excerpts will be chosen:
 - *The Czech Reader*, Bazant, Bazantova and Stern, eds.
 - *The Spirit of Prague*, by Ivan Klima
 - *Listen*, by Joseph Kerman
 - *The Joke*, by Milan Kundera
 - *The Buchta Theory and the Perina Syndrome*, by Tony Ackerman

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](https://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](https://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](https://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](https://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

Grading rubrics for each assignment include criteria on timely submission of work.

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

Let us be guided by common courtesy, respect for others, and the will to maintain a focused learning environment. The following guidelines will help:

- Please arrive on time – your active participation is necessary from the beginning.
- The class meets from 1:30 - 4:20. When possible, there will be a break in the middle when you can have a snack, otherwise please ask permission if you need to eat during the class. Water is allowed at all times. You may leave to go to the restroom at any time without asking.
- Please do not open laptops or look at cell phones unless expressly asked to by the professor.
- Please do not pack up your things before the class actually ends.

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.