

NYU Prague

HIST-UA9070P01

History in the Headlines

Spring 2020

Instructor Information

- **Jiri Pehe and Vanda Thorne**
- **Email:**
- **Office hours:** Immediately before or after class, and by arrangement via email

Course Information

- HIST-UA 9070 P01
- **History in the Headlines**
- Co-requisite or prerequisite: none
- **Tuesday 3 pm – 4:20 pm**
 - Kupka classroom, RD

Course Overview and Goals

Choosing and interpreting relevant information from the myriad of global and local news is always difficult. It is especially daunting in a foreign country where one typically lacks the necessary historical and cultural context. This class will analyze the most important and the most interesting contemporary topics in the Czech Republic and Central Europe as presented in various media. Each lecture and discussion will focus on one news headline and the story behind it. Topics will range from politics to economy, architecture, literature and music.

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

- Demonstrate the ability to research and analyze various media resources.
- Develop understanding of the ways in which specific historical, cultural and social events get reflected in media.
- Become acquainted with interpreting and contextualizing unfamiliar phenomena in a foreign country.

Course Requirements

Active class participation is necessary for this type of course. You are expected to ask questions and/or comment on the issues discussed frequently. Alternatively, you can also submit a written 1-page summary of the lecture together with your own comments and insights after each lecture (by email to Vanda Thorne vt21@nyu.edu).

Midterm Response Paper

3 pages, double spaced, 45% of the final grade. In-depth analysis of one of the class topics discussed until Midterm during the lectures. Please follow standard citation criteria and include a bibliography of sources. The paper should be submitted to Vanda Thorne (vt21@nyu.edu).

Final Response Paper

3 pages, double spaced, 45% of the final grade. In-depth analysis of one of the class topics discussed from Midterm to Finals during the lectures. Please follow standard citation criteria and include a bibliography of sources. The paper should be submitted to Vanda Thorne (vt21@nyu.edu).

Failure to submit or fulfil 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
Class participation and attendance	10%
Midterm Response Paper (March 24)	45%
Final Response Paper (May 19)	45%

Letter Grades

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

Letter Grade	Percent
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

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent work. Active class participation with relevant contributions to the class debates, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the subject. Written work shows original thought and research and an ability to express ideas clearly and persuasively.

Grade B: Very good work. Frequently 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. Some class participation. Written work accurate but not original or critical.

Grade D: Passable work. Meets minimum requirements.

Grade F: Fails to meet the requirements.

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Tuesday, February 4	The Czechs – Nation Without an Identity? (Jiri Pehe)	Klara Vlachova and Blanka Rehakova, " Identity of Non-Self-Evident Nation : Czech National Identity After the Break-Up of Czechoslovakia and Before Accession to the European Union," <i>Nations and Nationalism</i> 15 (2009), pp. 254–279. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1469-8129.2009.00379.x/pdf "The Czech Nation and Its Past and Present Identity." <i>Faustian Europe</i> , September 6, 2009. https://faustianeurope.wordpress.com/2009/09/06/the-czech-nation-and-its-past-and-present-identity/	
Session 2 Tuesday, February 11	Czechs - the Most Secular Nation in the World? Religion in Historical Transformations (Petr Mucha)	David Vaclavik, Dana Hamplova, Zdenek Nespor, "Religious Situation in Contemporary Czech Society," <i>Czech Sociological Review</i> , 2004, Vol. 40, No. 3: 277–295 (available at NYU Classes) Jonathan Evans, " Unlike Their Central and Eastern European Neighbors, Most Czechs Don't Believe in God," <i>Pew Research Center</i> , June 19, 2017. http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/06/19/unlike-their-central-and-eastern-european-neighbors-most-czechs-dont-believe-in-god/	
Session 3 Tuesday, February 18	Central Europeans in Literature: From Roth and Kafka to Milosz and Kundera (Tomas Vrba)	Vaclav Havel, "Six Asides About Culture," <i>Cardozo Studies in Law and Literature</i> Vol. 2, No. 1 (Spring 1990), pp. 43-52 http://www.jstor.org/stable/743544?&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents Adam Thirlwell, "Czech Mates," <i>New Statesman</i> , May 17, 2010 http://www.newstatesman.com/books/2010/05/central-european-cioran-czech	
Session 4 Tuesday, February 25	The Story of Love and Hate: Czech-German Relationship (Jan Urban)	Jan Urban, "Central Europe – Living Without Identity," (2017), pp. 1-6 (available at NYU Classes)	

<p>Session 5 Tuesday, March 3</p>	<p>What are Czechs Nostalgic for? Reflections on a Confused Post-Communist Society (Vanda Thorne)</p>	<p>James Kirchick, "Return of the Czech Communists. Vaclav Havel is Turning Over in His Grave." <i>Foreign Policy</i>, October 12, 2012. http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/10/12/return-of-the-czech-communists/ Ladka Morkowitz Bauerova, "How a Tokyo-Born Outsider Became the Face of Czech Nationalism." <i>Bloomberg Businessweek</i>, October 13, 2017. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-13/xenophobia-victim-poised-to-boost-czech-far-right-in-parliament</p>	
<p>Session 6 Tuesday, March 10</p>	<p>Donald Trump and His Czech Mini-Me Milos Zeman – Presidents and Their People (Tomas Nemecek)</p>	<p>Elliott Abrams, "Trump the Traditionalist: A Surprisingly Standard Foreign Policy," <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, July/August 2017. https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2017-06-13/trump-traditionalist Anthony Faiola, "Meet the Pro-Russian, Anti-Muslim European Leader Who Was Just Invited to Trump's White House," <i>Washington Post</i>, January 11, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/meet-the-pro-russian-anti-muslim-european-leader-who-was-just-invited-to-trumps-white-house/2017/01/11/18c14536-d808-11e6-9f9f-5cdb4b7f8dd7_story.html?utm_term=.dc16d876a553 Emily Tamkin, "Who Said It. Slamming Intel Edition: Donald Trump or the Czech President?" <i>Foreign Policy</i>, January 5, 2017. http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/01/05/who-said-it-slamming-intel-edition-donald-trump-or-the-czech-president/1e6-9f9f-5cdb4b7f8dd7_story.html?utm_term=.dc16d876a553</p>	
<p>Session 7 Tuesday, March 17</p>	<p>50 Shades of Relationships Between Russia and Europe (Vaclav Bartuska)</p>	<p>Tania Marocchi, "EU-Russia Relations: Towards an Increasingly Geopolitical Paradigm," Heinrich Boell Foundation (2017). https://eu.boell.org/en/2017/07/03/eu-russia-relations-towards-increasingly-geopolitical-paradigm Natalie, Nougayrede, "As the US and EU square off over Russia Sanctions, only Putin Can Win," <i>The Guardian</i>, July 31, 2017. https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jul/31/europe-us-russia-sanctions-putin-washington-eu-donald-trump</p>	
<p>Session 8 Tuesday, March 24</p>	<p>Are Czechs a Good American Ally? (Josef Zieleniec)</p>	<p>Andrew Schapiro, "The State of Czech-U.S. Relations Twenty-Five Years after the Velvet Revolution," US Embassy in the Czech Republic, October 20, 2014. https://cz.usembassy.gov/the-state-of-czech-u-s-relations-twenty-five-years-after-the-velvet-revolution/ Cameron Munter, "Looking Forward: U.S. – Czech Relations," <i>Prague Center for Transatlantic Relations</i>, No. 9 (2014).</p>	<p>MIDTERM RESPONSE PAPER DUE</p>

		http://www.cevroinstitut.cz/upload/ck/files/PCTR/Publikace/Munter_Looking%20Forward_U_S_-Czech%20Relations.pdf	
Session 9 Tuesday, March 31	How and Why Did the Refugee Crisis Radicalize and Polarize Czech Society (Salim Murad)	Philippe, Fargues, "2015 : The Year We Mistook Refugees For Invaders ," Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute. Florence Italy, 2015. http://cadmus.eui.eu/handle/1814/38307 Andras Schweitzer, " Eastern Europe's hard attitude to refugees is born out of trauma," <i>The Guardian</i> , October 22, 2015. https://www.theguardian.com/world/commentisfree/2015/oct/22/refugee-eastern-europe-trauma-governments-bigotry " Integrating Muslims into Europe is 'Impossible' ," Says Czech President," <i>The Guardian</i> , January 18, 2016. http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/18/integrating-muslims-into-europe-is-impossible-says-czech-president	
Session 10 Tuesday, April 7	How Will Brexit Change Central Europe (Tomas Klvana)	" The consequences of a British exit from the European Union ," <i>European Movement International</i> , April 2017. http://europeanmovement.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/EMI_16_PolicyPosition_Brexit_17_VIEW_FINAL.pdf Aleksander Kaczorowski, " What will happen to Central Europe after Brexit? " <i>Central European Financial Observer</i> , December 30, 2016. http://financialobserver.eu/poland/what-will-happen-to-central-europe-after-brexit/ Judy Dempsey, " Germany After Brexit ," <i>Carnegie Europe</i> , March 30, 2017. http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/?fa=68459	
Spring Break April 11 - 19	Spring Break		
Session 11 Tuesday, April 21	Central European Media in a Post-Truth World (Jeremy Druker)	Hunt Allcott and Matthew Gentzkow, " Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election ," <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> , Vol. 31, Number 2 (Spring 2017), pp. 211–236. https://web.stanford.edu/~gentzkow/research/fake_news.pdf Claire Wardle, " Fake News. It's Complicated. " <i>First Draft</i> , February 16, 2017. https://firstdraftnews.com/fake-news-complicated/	
Make-up Day Friday, April 24 (9am-5pm)	Make-up day for missed classes		

Session 12 Tuesday, April 28	Contemporary Czech Film – Lost in Translation? (Ivana Dolezalova)	Pavel Bednarik, “ Who Will Watch the Watchmen? Czech Documentary After 1989 (a Brief Resume),” <i>Images</i> vol. XV/no. 24 Poznań, 2014, pp. 51 – 60. http://pressto.amu.edu.pl/index.php/i/article/view/1316/1254 Martin, Kudlac, “ The White World According to Daliborek ,” <i>Cineuropa</i> , July 3, 2017. http://cineuropa.org/ff.aspx?t=ffocusinterview&l=en&tid=3147&did=330802	
Session 13 Tuesday, May 5	Modern Life in an Old City: Is Prague Becoming a Disneyland? (lecturer TBA)	Derek Sayer, <i>The Coasts of Bohemia: A Czech History</i> (2000), pp. 270-282. (available at NYU Classes) Darmon Richter, “ Beneath the Velvet: Examining the Scars of Communism in Prague ,” <i>The Bohemian Blog</i> , December 1, 2015. http://www.thebohemianblog.com/2015/12/beneath-the-velvet-examining-the-scars-of-communism-in-prague.html Dominik Jun, “ Prague’s Boring Modern Architecture ,” Radio Prague (English Broadcasting Section), September 12, 2008. http://www.radio.cz/en/section/arts/pragues-boring-modern-architecture	
Session 14 Tuesday, May 12 (last day of classes)	A History of the Czechs in Seven Songs (Tony Ackerman)	Michael Beckerman, “ In Search of Czechness in Music ,” <i>19th-Century Music</i> , Vol. 10, No. 1 (Summer, 1986), pp. 61-73 https://www.academia.edu/22291772/In_Search_of_Czechness_in_Music?auto=download Tony Ackerman, “Buchty and Periny” (available at NYU Classes)	
Session 15 Tuesday, May 19	Final exam		FINAL RESPONSE PAPER DUE

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

- Most texts can be accessed either directly via the attached link or through Electronic Reader in NYU Classes. **Some texts are only available in NYU Classes.**

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, April 24 (9am – 5pm) is reserved as a make-up day for missed classes. Do not schedule any trips for this day.

Late Submission of Work

All assigned written work is to be submitted by the proper deadline. Any late submission will be penalized by deducting 5% from the assignment grade for each day of the delay. Written assignments will not be accepted for grading if delivered more than 10 days after the original deadline.

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

Eating is not permitted in the classroom. No cell phones and **no use of the Internet** in the classroom.

Tardiness of more than 20 minutes without a reasonable excuse will be regarded as an absence.

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.