

# Czech Republic

## Arts and Social Change

Create, analyze, and contextualize art in Prague.

## Coursework

### Czech History, Arts, and Civil Society I

EURO/ARTS 3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

The course examines Czech history, society, and national identity through visual and performing arts, film, and literature. The course is built around the rich intersection of arts, politics, and social change in Czech history and includes required readings and lectures, film screenings, performances, and site visits.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *Czech History, Politics, and Society*

The First Republic; the legacy of the Munich agreement; the 1968 Prague Spring and 1970s Normalization period; Vaclav Havel and Charter 77; the secret police; the 1989 Velvet Revolution; social legacies of communism.

#### *Czech Arts, Society, and Dissent*

Readings in Czech literature; the Sovietization of Czech culture and society; cultural resurgence of the 1960s; dialectic of art and politics under communism; how theater staged the Revolution; the creative legacy of underground culture and dissent.

#### *Educational Excursions*

Excursions explore art and contemporary society in the Czech Republic and its neighboring Slavic countries. Students undertake a four-day regional stay with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) or schools in Moravia or Bohemia and visit the UNESCO-protected town of Český Krumlov. A longer excursion to Krakow, Poland, and the mountain region of Central Slovakia allows a comparative view of post-socialist Europe. The program also includes a stop at arts venues in Berlin or Dresden.

**Students enroll in either *Czech History, Arts, and Civil Society II* or *Arts Studio*. All other courses are mandatory.**

### Czech History, Arts, and Civil Society II: Creativity in Context

EURO/ARTS 3005 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

This course is an analysis of the development of democracy and civil society following

the end of communism. Emphasis is on the nexus of contemporary society, arts, and civic initiatives through personal interviews with artists and civic leaders about the social legacy of communism. It includes readings and roundtable discussions as well as site visits to NGOs and arts centers. The course runs parallel to Czech History, Arts, and Civil Society I.

Seminar topics typically include:

#### *Democracy and Civil Society*

Civil society and the arts: definitions, principles, and frameworks; the origins and character of totalitarianism; creation and structure of NGOs in post-communist society; individual and collective civic creativity.

#### *Arts, Creativity, and Social Change*

Creative civic initiatives for human and civil rights; Czech humanitarian initiatives abroad; multiculturalism in historical context; theater and social change.

OR

### Arts Studio

ARTS 2000–3000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

A course geared toward students in the visual and performing arts or literature, requiring independent studio work in the visual arts, photography, dance, or creative writing. Students may work with professional artists, writers, and dance instructors. The course runs parallel to Czech History, Arts, and Civil Society I.

### Intensive Language Study: Czech

CZEC 1000 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

Emphasis on speaking and comprehension skills through classroom and field instruction; introduction to basic concepts and principles of Czech grammar.

### Arts Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 3 credits / 45 class hours

A required course in qualitative research methods focused on learning across cultures. Topics include cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refine-



**Credits** 16

**Duration** Fall/Spring 15 weeks

**Program Base** Prague

**Language Study** Czech

**Homestay** Prague, 8–12 weeks

**Rural Visit/Homestay** Bohemia or Moravia, 4 days

**Other Accommodations** Hostels or small hotels, private homes, and arts and NGO centers

**Independent Study Project** 4 weeks

**Prerequisites** For visual arts, photography, and dance studio work, background in the area of study is required. Students enrolling in creative writing must be majors or minors in writing. For all students, previous survey courses in European history or arts history are recommended, but not required.

ment; field study ethics and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; observation and interviewing skills. The course introduces arts-based research methods (narrative, poetic, dance, and visual forms of inquiry, for example).

### Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours

Conducted in Prague or in another approved location in the Czech Republic, Poland, or Slovakia. The Independent Study Project may comprise a standard field-based research project, visual or performing arts work, or work with an NGO. **Sample topic areas:** alternative theaters in the Czech Regions; legacy of Czech underground music; the former Sudetenland today.