

History of Czech Architecture

Syllabus Spring 2011

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Course description: History of Czech Architecture

Prague is a unique city, in which you can find all architectural styles: from the pre-Romanesque, to Romanesque and Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Classicist styles, to the modern ones that include Historicism, Art Nouveau, the original Cubism in architecture, Art Deco, Constructivism and Functionalism, even the post-war Stalinist architecture, and contemporary trends. Prague did not undergo extensive renewals such as occurred in other European metropolises, which has resulted in fragments of various epochs left standing side by side. It's also possible to see the medieval urban layout to in today's Prague. Architects and master builders from many European countries worked here and local architects and artists were also influenced by foreign models. The city is in fact an ideal textbook of architecture from the Middle Ages to the present day. The course will take the students through this development chronologically, in lectures accompanied by projections of pictures and short films, but also in visits to typical buildings, including their interiors. The main emphasis will be put on the period of the 19th and 20th centuries, in which the lecturer specializes. Architecture is linked to other fields, such as fine arts, urban planning, national heritage care, industrial design, and others. Some lectures will also therefore touch on these topics. During the course, each of the students will present an independent study of one chosen building: they will analyze the building, place it within a broader context of European architecture and supply it with their own illustrations. They will defend the work. At the end of the term students are required to take a written test. There is compulsory and recommended specialist literature in English available for students, who are expected to supplement the information gained at lectures and excursions by self-study. By the end of the term students should have acquired some knowledge of the complex development of Central-European architecture, of the most significant figures, and be fairly well informed in related fields.

Grading policy

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|---------------------------------|------|
| Class participation/attendance: | 25% |
| Paper or other assignment: | 35% |
| Mid-term: | 15 % |
| Final: | 25% |

Schedule of classes

Week 1

24 January - Overview of course

26 January - Prague Castle tour

Benešovská, Chotěbor: 10 centuries of Architecture: Romanesque and Gothic Arch

Week 2

31 January St. Vitus Cathedral – the Triforium tour

Benesovska, Chotebor: 10 Centuries of Architecture: Romanesque and Gothic

2 February - Mediaeval Architecture - Prague Old Town tour

Benešovská, Chotěbor: 10 centuries of Architecture: Romanesque and Gothic Arch.

Week 3

7 February - Renaissance Architecture Prague Castle Tour –

Belvedere, Ball-Game Hall, Vladislav Hall

Muchka: 10 Centuries of Architecture: Renaissance, Coll.: Story of Prague Castle

9 February - Prague Castle tour: Renaissance Architecture – Prague Castle - Spanish Hall

Muchka: 10 Centuries of Architecture - Renaissance

Week 4

14 February – Renaissance and Baroque Architecture - Hradcany tour

Kotalik: 10 Centuries of Architecture: Baroque

16 February – Baroque – Wallenstein Garden tour

Kotalik: 10 Centuries of Architecture: Baroque

Week 5

21 February - Baroque Architecture - Malá Strana tour and Charles bridge

Kotalik: 10 Centuries of Architecture: Baroque

23 February – Prague Castle history – a movie

Week 6

28 February- Classicism – Mozart's Theatre of Estates tour

2 March – From Romanesque to Baroque – slide show repetition

**Weeks 7/8 –MIDTERM EXAMS - YOU SHOULD SCHEDULE YOUR MIDTERM EXAM
OR PAPER FOR WEEK SEVEN OR EIGHT**

Week 7

7 March – Test I

9 March – Book No.1 presentation

Week 8

14 March - Historicism: Rudolfinum, National Museum

Zatloukal: 10 Centuries – XIX. Century the

16 March - Art Nouveau: Municipal House, Central Hotel tour

Lukes: 10 Centuries: XX. Century Architecture, Vlček: Art Nouveau in Prague

Week 9 – Spring Break – no classes

Week 10

28 March – Art Nouveau – Bilek villa tour

Lukes: 10 Centuries: XX. Century Architecture, Vlček: Art Nouveau in Prague

30 March - Cubism: Black Madonna tour

Lukes: The Cubism in Architecture

Week 11

4 April - Neoclassicism: Josip Plecnik's gardens and courtyards of Prague Castle

Lukes-Prelovsek-Valena: J. Plecnik – Architect of Prague Castle

6 April - Plecnik - the slide show

Prelovšek: Josip Plecnik; Lukes-Prelovsek-Valena: J. P. – the Architect of Prague Castle

Week 12

11 April - Dear Master – J. Plecnik movie

Lukes-Prelovsek-Valena: J. Plecnik – Architect of Prague Castle

13 April - Functionalism –the Muller Villa tour

Lukes: 10 Centuries – XX. Century Architecture

Week 13

18 April – Functionalism – Baba Collony

Lukes: 10 Centuries – XX. Century Architecture

20 April - Functionalism: The Palace of Fairs (Museum of Modern Art) tour

Lukes: 10 centuries of Architecture: Arch. of XX. Century

Week 14

25 April - National Holiday – No classes

27 April - the slide show: from Art Nouveau to Functionalism

Lukes: 10 Centuries – XX. Century Architecture

Week 15

2 May - Stalin's style: the International Hotel (Crown Plaza) tour

Lukes: 10 Centuries – XX. Century Architecture

4 May - Contemporary Architecture – one of the Prague's studios tour

Lukes: 10 Centuries – XX. Century Architecture

Week 16 --Exam week - Test II, Book No.2 presentation

