

Syllabus for the course

FROM KAFKA TO HAVEL: INTRODUCTION INTO THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF CZECH LANDS

Course code:	5HD280
Course title in language of instruction:	From Kafka to Havel: Introduction into the History and Culture of Czech Lands
Course title in Czech:	Od Kafky k Havlovi: Úvod do dějin a kultury českých zemí
Course title in English:	From Kafka to Havel: Introduction into the History and Culture of Czech Lands
Number of ECTS credits allocated:	3
Mode of delivery:	full-time; 2/0 (hours of lectures per week / hours of seminars per week) as semestral course
Mode of completion:	graded course
Language of instruction:	English
Level of course and year of study:	bachelor (first cycle): 3; master (second cycle): 1
Semester:	SS 2020/2021
Name of lecturer(s):	Ing. Petr Chalupecký (examiner, lecturer, supervisor)
Prerequisites and co-requisites:	none
Recommended optional programme components:	none
Work placement:	none

Aims of the course:

The course is designed for foreign students and is supposed to be an introduction to the history and culture of the Czech lands. The aim of this course is an overall summary of the most memorable moments in Czech political, economic, and cultural history.

Learning outcomes and competences:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- characterize the roots of the Czech statehood and state traditions,
- identify the reasons for the „German complex“ in Czech history,
- explain the development of Czech religiosity and secular society in the European context,
- characterize the social contract during the Czechoslovak normalization,
- summarize the meaning of Czech authors for the European literature in the 20th century.

Course contents:

1. Where and when They appeared here: the beginnings of Czech state and its rise – from Přemyslides to Luxembourgs.
2. “Stopped were smiles of Czechs, wasted were their liberties” or what was a true story of Habsbourgs.
3. Nothing but nation has a right to live: National revival – establishing of modern Czech nation.
4. The strange Czech-German complex. Why a thousand-year coexistence ended by a dramatic divorce.
5. Czechs + Slovaks = Czechoslovaks? Close but not as much as to live in one state.
6. Why don't Czechs go to church? Faith, tradition, and liberal thinking in Czech society.
7. Truth about the bad communists and “panelaks”: Czechoslovak society under the conditions of communist dictatorship.
8. “You for coffee?”: Customs and hospitality in Czech culture.
9. “One more?” Why is the Czech Republic a beer nation? Traditional cuisine and Czech eating customs.
10. Simply Clever: Which brands make the Czechs proud?

11. Do Czechs really sell their brides? Music in Czech cultural heritage.
12. Sun, the yelling fat lady, and strawberries?: How to understand the national sense of humor – the case of Czech cinematography.
13. Kundera, Kafka, and who was the real inventor of robotics? Two hundred years of modern Czech literature.

Learning activities, teaching methods and workload (hours):

Type of teaching method	Hours of workload
	Daily attendance
Participation in lectures	26
Preparation for mid-term test(s)	26
Preparation for final test	26
Total	78

Assessment methods and criteria:

Requirement type	Weight
	Daily attendance
Mid-term test(s)	40 %
Final test	60 %
Total	100 %

Assessment:

Graded courses

- 1 Excellent (90 – 100%)
- 2 Very good (75 – 89%)
- 3 Good (60 – 74%)
- 4 Insufficient (0 – 59%)

Ungraded courses

- P Passed
NP Not Passed

Special requirements and details:

In the winter semester 2020/2021 there is no midterm test, students will be evaluated on the basis of the final test. The final test is cumulative and covers material from the whole course. When graded 4+ (50-59%) students retake the final test as a "shoot-out" between grades 3 (if 60% or more is reached from the re-take) or 4 (if less than 60% is reached from the re-take). This course was co-funded by the European Union, the European Structural and Investment Funds, the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education.

Reading:

Type*	Author	Title	Published in	Publisher	Year	ISBN
RQ	PÁNEK, J. – TŮMA, O.	A history of the Czech lands	Praha	Karolinum	2009	978-80-246-1645-2
RQ	DĚDEK, O.	The Break-up of Czechoslovakia : an in-depth economic analysis	Aldershot	Avebury	1996	1-85972-276-8
RQ	CIPKOWSKI, P.	Revolution in Eastern Europe : understanding the collapse of communism in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and the Soviet Union	New York	Wiley	1991	0-471-53968-6
RQ	POKORNÝ, J. – ČORNEJ, P.	A brief history of the Czech Lands	Praha	Práh	2015	978-80-7252-567-6

- RE KRUEGER, R. Czech, German, and noble : status and national identity in Habsburg Bohemia Oxford Oxford University Press 2009 978-0-19-532345-0
- RE DEREK SAYER, The Coasts of Bohemia Princeton University Press 1998
- RE BAŽANT, Jan – BAŽANTOVÁ, Nina, The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Durnham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0822347941
- RE CASHMAN, Laura (ed.). 1948 and 1968: Dramatic Milestones in Czech and Slovak History. Abingdon : Routlege, 2010. ISBN 978-0-415-49990.
- RE DOHNALOVÁ, Lenka. Czech Music Guide. Praha : Arts and Theatre Institute, 2011. ISBN 978-80-7008-269-0.
- RE ENGLUND, Terje B. The Czechs in a Nutshell : a User'sManual for Foreigners. Praha : Práh, 2009. ISBN 978-80-7252-266-8.
- RE MYANT, Martin. The Czechoslovak Economy 1948–1988. The battle for Economic Reform. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. ISBN 978-0-521-14376-9
- RE PALMITESSA, James R. – DAY, Barbara – HOPKINSON, Christopher. Between Lipany nad White Mountain : Essays in Late Medieval and Early Modern Bohemian History in Modern Czech Scholarship. Leiden; Boston : Brill, 2014. ISBN 978-90-04-27757-1.
- RE SKILLING, Harold Gordon. Czechoslovakia's Interrupted Revolution. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976. ISBN 978-0691052342
- RE SKILLING, Harold, Gordon. T. G. Masaryk: Against the Current 1882–1914. University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 1994. ISBN 978-0271010427
- RE SWAIN, Geoffrey – SWAIN, Nigel. Eastern Europe since 1945. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1998. ISBN 0-333-7324-0

* RQ – required RE – recommended