

Sport & Culture in Contemporary Czech Republic

SECTION I: Course Overview

Course Code: CUL351PRG

Subject Area(s): Cultural Studies

Prerequisites: None

Language of Instruction: English

Total Contact Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course analyzes the role of sport in contemporary Czech society and the interrelationship between sport, identity, and politics in the Czech Republic from the end of the 19th century to the present day. Contemporary and historical sporting practices and events – including soccer, ice hockey, tennis, track and field, sailing, hiking, or *spartakiáda* – are analyzed to uncover issues around national identity, politics, gender, and the sport-media-market interface in the Czech context. Drawing on the Czech historical, sociological, and outdoor education studies, the course examines state and civic organization of sport and its political role in both totalitarian and democratic Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic. Students will actively engage in various aspects of the host culture throughout the term through case studies, onsite learning, and field research.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- Describe the historical development of sport in the Czech Republic from the end of the 19th century to the present day.
- Explain the relationship between communist era policies and contemporary post-transition issues associated with national identity in the Czech Republic through the lens of sport.
- Apply theories from Czech sociology and outdoors education studies to the analysis of specific sporting practices in the Czech Republic.
- Examine the role of women in Czech sport, especially in those contexts where women's participation and contributions have been historically rendered invisible.
- Evaluate the extent to which material covered in class is expressed in the everyday life of the host society through direct experience while studying in Prague.

SECTION II: Instructor & Course Details

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

Name: TBD
Contact Information: TBD
Term: SUMMER

GRADING & ASSESSMENT

The instructor will assess your progress towards the above-listed learning objectives by using the forms of assessment below. Each of these assessments is weighted and will count towards your final grade. The following section (Assessment Overview) will provide further details for each.

Engagement	20%
Assignments (2)	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Project Presentation	15%
Final Essay	25%

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This section provides a brief description of each form of assessment listed above. Your course instructor will provide further details and instructions during class time.

Engagement (20%): Engagement in class is expected of all CEA CAPA students. Guidelines for engagement can be found on the list of academic policies.

Assignments (2*10% each, 20% total)

Sport and politics (Short Individual Presentation) (10%): During the semester, you will deliver short individual presentation on relation between sport and politics. In your presentation, you will present one historical event when politics were involved in the world of sports. Your topic choice is to be sent to course instructor via email. To demonstrate a clear connection to historical and sociological frameworks presented, you should reference at **least three course readings right in your presentation. Presentations should not be longer than 6 minutes. The use of presentation apps (Powerpoint, Google Slides etc.) is required.** Be prepared for a discussion right after your presentation.

Sport and gender (Short essay) (10%): In your second assignment you will write a short essay on topic “How to tackle gender inequalities in professional sports”. Think about various instances of sport gender inequalities. Select an instance you would like to research and analyze and present in writing your ideas on how to surpass them in order to make sports more equal. To demonstrate a clear connection to historical and sociological frameworks presented, you should reference at least **three course readings**. Please make the reference **to your sources right in your essay. The essay should not be longer than 400 words (less or more than 10% is acceptable)**. Use **paragraphs** in your essay. Be prepared for the discussion on the due day.

Midterm Exam (20%): The midterm exam will assess your knowledge of both the historical specifics of sport in the Czech Republic, and the conceptual frameworks presented in the first half of the course. The midterm exam will include the completion of an in-class essay. There will be a selection of essay topics and students will choose to respond in writing to one of them. Students are allowed to use any in-class resources, including notes, class materials etc. **Write**

at least a three-page response essay. You should present facts and topics included in our course readings and discussions, but you should also contextualize these with your own interpretations, supporting arguments, and personal ideas. **Make sure to reference at least 3 course readings.** Your text should have a proper introduction and conclusion.

Final Project Presentation (15%):

For your **final presentation** and **final essay**, you can choose **one of two topics**:

Evolution of a Selected Sport (hockey, football, etc.) in Czechoslovakia

You will deliver an oral presentation for which you are to select a sport of your choice practiced in the Czech Republic, at any level, with or without formal governing bodies. You are to explore the evolution of this sport in the Czech Republic, its formal organization as well as its connection to Czech politics and Czech national identity. You will critically examine the impact of the Czech Republic's transition to democracy and transformations relevant to this sport in the post-communist era. You should also compare organization of sport of your choice in Czechia and US. During the last week of class, you will present your findings to the class. **Maximum time limit for the presentation is 10 minutes, with additional 2 minutes for Q&A. The use of presentation apps (Powerpoint, Google Slides etc.) is required. You should use at least six course readings right in your presentation,** drawing from the required or recommended literature included in the syllabus).

Comparative Analysis of Sporting Culture in Czechia and U.S. (covering both historical and present-day similarities and differences).

You will deliver an oral presentation for which you are to describe the main differences and similarities between sporting culture in Czechia and the U.S. You will examine the Czech and Czechoslovak historical context and its influence on sporting culture and try to underline differences but also similarities between Czechia and the U.S. You will analyze how the transformation has changed Czech sports and sporting culture and how it converged with the sporting culture in Western Europe and the U.S. During the last week of class, you will present your findings in class. **Maximum time limit for the presentation is 10 minutes, with additional 2 minutes for Q&A. The use of presentation apps (Powerpoint, Google Slides etc.) is required. You should use at least six course readings right in your presentation,** drawing from the required or recommended literature included in the syllabus).

Final Essay (25%): You are to write a final essay of **1800 words** (excluding cover page, bibliography, or visuals). **You should use at least six course readings** (recommended or required). **The essay should be written in connection to your final presentation,** and it should combine research on a selected topic with observations during your time in the Czech Republic. The final essay should have a proper structure:

1. **Introduction** (overview of your essay, its main arguments, and structure)
2. **Body** (structured analysis, findings, ideas which further develop your main argument)
3. **Conclusion** (summary, the most important outcomes of essay)

The instructor will provide further information about the final essay during the course.

ACTIVE LEARNING

CEA CAPA courses are designed to include a variety of active learning component that will take you out of the classroom and allow you to explore your local, host city. This course includes:

- Local Czech sporting event
- Hike in nature preserve Divoká Šárka
- Visit of Czech Ice Hockey Hall of Fame

REQUIRED READINGS

The reading assignments for this course are listed below. All required readings must be completed according to the due date assigned by the course instructor. You will not need to purchase these readings; the instructor will provide these selected readings to you in class (either in paper or electronic format) and/or through CEA CAPA's online Moodle classroom.

SELECTED READING(S): The selected readings for this course are listed below. You will not need to purchase these readings; the instructor will provide these selected readings to you in class (either in paper or electronic format).

Ahonen, A. *Strong entrepreneurial focus and internationalization—the way to success for Finnish ice hockey: the case of JYP ice hockey team*. *Sport in Society*, 23(3), 2020, pp. 469-483.

Backman, J. and Carlsson, B. *Jokerit's move to KHL: an odd momentum in the commercialization of Nordic elite ice hockey*. *Sport in Society*, 23(3), 2020, pp. 505-522.

Brannagan M. P. & Giulianotti, R. *Soft power and soft disempowerment: Qatar, global sport and football's 2022 World Cup finals*, *Leisure Studies*, 2015 34:6, 703-719.

Carlsson, B., Backman, J. and Stark, T. *Introduction: the progress of elite ice hockey beyond the NHL*. *Sport in Society*, 23(3), 2020, pp. 355-360.

Barrer, P. *'Satan is God!': Re-imagining Contemporary Slovak National Identity through Sport*. *Sport in Society*, 10(2), 2007, pp.223-238.

Cenek, J. and Smolik, J. *Nationalism and Its Manifestations in Sport: the Case of Football Hooliganism in the Czech Republic*. In Cordell, K., and Jajecznik, K. (eds.), *The Transformation of Nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe*, University of Warsaw, 2015, pp. 138-153.

Crossan, W. *Expanding game, expanding opportunity: the effect of athlete migration on Czech ice hockey from 1993 to 2018*, *Sports in Society: Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics*. Vol. 23 (3), 2019, pp. 377-398.

Fialova, L. *Women and Sport in the Czech Republic*. In Pfister, T. and Hartmann-Tews, I. (eds.) *Sport and Women: Social Issues in International Perspective*. Routledge: London, 2003, pp. 102-117.

Giulianotti, R. and Numerato, D. *Global sport and consumer culture: An introduction*. *Journal of consumer culture*, 18(2), 2018, pp. 229-240.

Horne, J. and Manzenreiter, W. *An introduction to the sociology of sports mega-events*. *The sociological review*, 54(2_suppl), 2006, pp.1-24.

Kvasnicka, T. *Equipment and Changing Outdoor Culture in the Czech Republic*. *Anthropology of East Europe Review*. Vol 25 (1), 2009, pp. 53-63.

Martin, A., Turcova, I. and Neuman, J. *Turistika activities and games, dramaturgy, and the Czech outdoor experience*. In Humberstone, B., Prince, H. (eds). *Routledge International Handbook of Outdoor Studies*. London: Routledge, 2016, pp. 297-306.

Numerato, D. *Sports as Resistance: Czech Hockey Protest in Czechoslovakia in 1969*. In Kratzmueller, B. et al. *Sport and the Construction of Identities*. Vienna: Verlag Turia & Kant, 2007, pp. 704-712.

Pfister, G. *Women in sport—gender relations and future perspectives*. *Sport in society*, 13(2), 2010, pp. 234-248.

Soares, John. *East beats West: ice hockey and the Cold War*. *Sport and the Transformation of Modern Europe*, Routledge, 2013, pp. 47-61.

Spacek, O. *Sporting activities and social stratification in the Czech Republic: a temporal perspective*. *European Journal for Sport and Society*, Vol 13 (4), 2016, pp. 256-273.

Turcova, I. *The Czech approach to outdoor adventure and experiential education: the influence of Jaroslav Foglar's work*. Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning. Vol. 17 (4), 2017, pp. 321-337.

Waic, M. *Sport in Czechoslovakia 1945-1989*. In Waic, M. et. Al. (eds). In the Shadow of Totalitarianism: Sport and the Olympic Movement in the "Visegrad Countries" 1945-1989, Prague: Karolinum Press, 2015, pp. 12-40.

Waic, M. *The Czech Sokol movement: school of the nation*. Sport–Integration–Europe, pp.72-81.

Whannel, G. *Television and the Transformation of Sport*. The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 625(1), 2009, pp. 205-218.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

The recommended reading(s) and/or text(s) for this course are below. These recommended readings are not mandatory, but they will assist you with research and understanding course content.

Bauer, T. and Fortune, Y. *Revisiting the Emil Zatopek Myth: Running by Jean Echenoz*, The International Journal of the History of Sport, Vol. 34 (16), 2007, pp. 1703-1718.

Borrero, M. *Sport in Russia and Eastern Europe*. In Edelman, R. and Wilson, W. (eds). Oxford Handbook of Sports History. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. 319-330.

Bren, P. *Weekend Getaways: the Chata, the Tramp and the Politics of Private Life in Post-1968 Czechoslovakia*. In Crowley, D. and Reid, S. (eds.) Socialist Spaces: Sites of Everyday Life in the Eastern Bloc (1st Edition). Oxford: Berg, 2002, pp. 123-140.

Cronin, M. and Holt, R. *The Globalisation of Sport*. History Today 53(7), 2003, pp. 26-33.

Collins, M. *Epilogue: Eastern European Sport: Which Ways from the Current Crossroads?*, The International Journal of the History of Sport, 21:5, 2004, pp. 833-843.

De Bosscher, V. Comparing Tennis Success Among Countries. Journal of Common Market Studies, Vol 25 (1), 2003, pp. 49-68.

Duke, V. *The Flood from the East? Perestroika and the Migration of Sports Talent from Eastern Europe*. In Bale, J. and Maguire, J. (eds.) The Global Sports Arena: Athletic Talent Migration in an Interdependent World, London: Frank Cass, 1994, pp. 153-170.

Frey, J. and Eitzen, D. Sport and Society. *Annual Review of Sociology* 17, 1991, pp. 503-522.

Giulianotti, R. *Sport: A Critical Sociology* (2nd Edition). Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016, 296 pp.

Jandasek, L. The Sokol Movement in Czechoslovakia. The Slavonic and East European Review, Vol. 11 (31), 1932, pp. 65-80.

Jirasek, I., Martin, A., and Turcova, I. *Games and Play: Jaroslav Foglar's Influence on Czech education in nature*. Horizons. Vol 45, 2009, pp. 28-32.

Jokisipila, M. *Maple Leaf, Hammer, and Sickle: International Ice Hockey during the Cold War*. Sport History Review, Vol. 37 (1), 2006, pp. 36-53.

Kavalir, P. *Sport in the Value System of Czech Adolescents: Continuity and Change*. The International Journal of the History of Sport, Vol. 21 (5), 2004, pp. 742-761.

Keshock, C. *Historical, psychological and cultural influences upon the sport success of Czechoslovakian athletes*, European Journal for Sport and Society, Vol. 6 (2), 2009, pp. 179-188.

Kostka, V. Czechoslovakia. In Riordan, J. (ed.). Sport under Communism: the USSR, Czechoslovakia, GDR, China, Cuba. (1st Edition). Canberra: Australian National University Press, 1978, pp. 55-67.

- Leichtová, M.B. and Zákřavský, J., 2021. *Cold War on ice? Soviet ice-hockey dominance and foreign policy*. Sport in Society, 24(6), 2021, pp. 1033-1054.
- Martin A. et al. *Czech education in nature traditions*. History of Education Review. Vol. 41 (1), 2020, pp. 31-43.
- Nolte, C. "Every Czech a Sokol!": *Feminism and Nationalism in the Czech Sokol Movement*. Austrian History Yearbook, Vol. 24, 2003, pp. 79-100.
- Numerato, D. and Flemer, L. *The Czech Republic*. In O'Boyle, I., and Bradbury, T. (eds.) Sport Governance: International Case Studies (1st Edition), London: Routledge, 2013, pp. 229–242.
- Numerato, D. *Revisiting Weber's Concept of Disenchantment: An Examination of the Re-enchantment with Sailing in the Post-Communist Czech Republic*. Sociology, Gender Studies, and Cultural Studies, 2009, Vol 43 (3), 2009, pp. 439-456.
- Numerato, D. *Czech Sport Governing Bodies and Social Capital*. International Review for the Sociology of Sport. Vol 41 (3-4), 2008, pp. 283-294.
- Numerato, D. *Between small everyday practices and glorious symbolic acts: sport-based resistance against the communist regime in Czechoslovakia*. Sport in Society: Cultures, Commerce, Media, Politics, Vol. 13 (1), 2010, pp. 107-120.
- Nolte, C. *The Sokol in the Czech Lands to 1914: Training for the Nation* (2nd Edition). New York: Palgrave, 2002, 253 pp.
- Oates-Indruchova, L. *The Ideology of a Genderless Sporting Body. Reflections on the Czech State-Socialist Concept of a Physical Culture*. In Segal, N. Cook, R. and Taylor, L. (eds.) Indeterminate Bodies, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003, pp. 48-66.
- Poupaux, S. and Andreff, W. *The Institutional Dimension of the Sports Economy in Transition Countries*. In Parent, M. and Slack, T. (eds.) International Perspectives on the Management of Sport (1st Edition), London: Routledge, 2007, pp. 99-123.
- Poupaux, S. *Soviet and Post-Soviet Sport*. In Andreff, W. and Szymanski, S. (eds.) Handbook of the Economics of Sport. Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2006, pp. 316-324.
- Riordan, J. *Sport, Politics and Communism* (1st Edition). Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1991, 166 pp.
- Riordan, J. *The Impact of Communism on Sport*. In Riordan, J. and Krueger, A. (eds.) The International Politics of Sport in the Twentieth Century. London: Routledge, 1999, pp. 48-67.
- Roubal, P. *Spartakiads: The Politics of Physical Culture in Communist Czechoslovakia* (1st Edition). Prague: Karolinum Press, 2019, 421 pp.
- Roubal, P. *Politics of Gymnastics: Mass Gymnastic Displays Under Communism in Central and Eastern Europe*, Body & Society, Vol. 9 (2), 2003, pp. 1-25.
- Slepickova, I. *Czech Women in the Sports Media*. In Bruce, T., Howden, J. and Markula, P. (eds.), Sportswomen in the Olympics, Rotterdam: Sense Publishers, 2010, pp. 153-165.
- Svoboda, A. and Numerato, D. *Socio-cultural Transformations of Tennis in the Czech Republic*. In Lake, R. (ed.) Routledge Handbook of Tennis: History, Culture, Politics. New York: Routledge, 2019, chapter 13.
- Soares, J. *Cold War, Hot Ice: International Ice Hockey: 1947-1980*. Journal of Sport History. Vol. 32 (2), 2007, pp. 207-230.
- Turčová, I., Martin A., and Neuman, J. *Diversity in language: Outdoor terminology in the Czech Republic and Britain*, Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning, Vol. 5 (2), 2005, pp. 101-117.
- Valkanova, Y. *Constructions of nature and emerging ideas in children's education and care*. In David, T., Gooch, K., and Powell, S. (eds.), The Routledge International Handbook of Philosophies and Theories of Early Childhood Education and Care, New York: Routledge, 2016, pp. 11-18.

KEY RESOURCES

In order to ensure you success abroad, CEA CAPA has provided the academic resources listed below.

- **UNH Online Library:** As a CEA CAPA student, you will be given access to the online library of the University of New Haven (UNH). You may access the UNH online library [here](#). You must comply with [UNH Policies](#) regarding library usage.
- **CEA CAPA Classroom – Moodle**

COURSE CALENDAR
Sport & Culture in Contemporary Czech Republic

SESSION	TOPICS	ACTIVITY	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	<p>Course Introduction: Review Syllabus, Classroom Policies Why study sports? What can sports tell us about the culture and society?</p>	<p>Course Overview Lecture & Discussion</p>	<p>Syllabus and CEA Academic Policies</p>
2	<p>Czechoslovak Sport during Communism (1945-1989) and after 1989 Historical overview Sport during communism Prague spring Normalization Sport and Political Resistance Migration of athletes Changes in social stratification structure of Czech sports after 1989</p>	<p>Lecture & Discussion</p>	<p>Waic, pp. 12-40 Numeraro, pp. 704-712 Spacek, pp. 256-273 Work on assignment 1</p>
3	<p>Sport and politics Political aspects of sport Sport & Cold-War: Ice hockey as a symbolic arena between Soviet Union and the West Sport as a Political Instrument</p>	<p>Student´s Presentations & Lecture & Discussion</p>	<p>Brannagan, Giulianotti, pp.703-719 Soares, pp. 47-61 Assignment 1 due</p>
4	<p>AICAP Activity 1 <i>Czech sport in action (Memoriál Josefa Odložila – Athletics Competition)</i></p>	<p><i>Field Study: (Memoriál Josefa Odložila – Athletics Competition)</i></p>	
5	<p>Professional sports of nowadays Globalization, commercialization, media-sports Branding of sports Sports mega-events How global processes influence Czech sports</p>	<p>Lecture & Discussion</p>	<p>Whannel, pp. 205-218 Horne, Manzenreiter pp. 1-24 Giulianotti, Numerato, pp. 229-240</p>

6	Differences between sports in US, Czechia and Europe What are the main differences between sports in US and Europe (Czechia)?	Lecture & Discussion Midterm Exam Review	Ahonen, pp. 469-483 Backman, Carlsson, pp. 505-522 Carlsson, Backman, Stark, pp. 355-360 Work on assignment 2
7	MIDTERM EXAM		
8	Sports, social inequalities, and gender Sports and social inequalities Definition of gender Gender related topics in Czech sports	Lecture & Discussion	Fialova, pp. 102-117 Pfister, pp. 234-248 Assignment 2 due
9	AICAP Activity 2 <i>The Czechs and the Outdoors: Hike to Divoka Sarka</i>	<i>Field Study: Hike to Nature Preserve Divoka Sarka</i>	Martin, Turcova, Neuman, pp. 297-306 Turcova, pp. 321-337 Kvasnicka, pp. 53-63
10	Kdo neskáče není Čech! Sport & Construction of Czech National Identity Sports fans Role of ice hockey and football for Czech culture AICAP Activity 3 <i>Czech Ice Hockey Hall of Fame</i>	Lecture & Discussion,	Barrer, pp. 223-238 Cenek, J. and Smolik, pp. 138-153
11	Documentary “Factory on ice”	Documentary & Teamwork & Discussion Review for Final Presentation & Final Essay	No reading required
12	Final Project Presentations & Final class review Key outcomes of the course Milestones of Czech sporting history Role of sports in Czech culture and society	Lecture & Discussion Course Review	Final essay due No reading required

SECTION III: CEA CAPA Academic Policies

To see all CEA CAPA academic policies outlined, please follow the following links. Students are expected to review and understand all CEA CAPA student policies, including the academic policies outlined online. CEA CAPA reserves the right to change, update, revise, or amend existing policies and/or procedures at any time.

Class & Instructor Policies can be found [here](#)

General Academic Policies can be found [here](#)