

Course Last Updated 3/26/2024



Geography of the City: Prague

Section I: Course Overview

Course Code: GEOG310PRG

Subject Area(s): Geography

Prerequisites: None

Language of Instruction: Czech

Total Contact Hours: 45

Credits: 3

Course Fees: None

Course Description

This course explores how the city of Prague has grown, changed, and developed over time. The course examines the physical aspects of the city's structure, including scale, districts, infrastructure, public spaces, and green areas. The course also considers how the prominent and hidden physical and sensory clues the city provides to its observers illuminate its history, economic and socio-cultural dynamics and shape the most recent changes and issues facing the city. The course topics and field studies give students an opportunity to record and interpret their observations of the city while critically reflecting on the evolutionary processes of place making to appraise how various Prague spaces are utilized and appreciated in the present day. The course integrates various topics and approaches to studying the city as space to help students develop an interactional relationship with the city not only as an object of study but also as a lived experience.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to:

- Analyze how the city of Prague has developed and changed over time
- Interpret the physical and sensory clues in the city using various techniques
- Critically reflect on how city spaces are used and valued in the present day

Section II: Instructor & Course Details

Instructor Details

Name: TBC

Contact Information: TBC

Term: TBC

Course Day and Time: TBC

Office Hours: TBC

Grading & Assessment

The instructor assesses students' mastery of course learning objectives by using the forms of assessment below. Each of these assessments is weighted toward the final grade. The Assessment Overview section provides further details for each.

Engagement - 20%

Field Journals –30%

Mid-Term Exam – 25%

Final Group Presentation – 25%

Assessment Overview

This section provides a brief description of each form of assessment listed above. Forms of assessment may be slightly modified in the term syllabus.

Engagement (20%): Students are expected to be engaged in class, to have read the CEA CAPA Engagement Policy, and to understand the [Class Engagement Rubric](#) that outlines how engagement is graded.

Field Journals (30%): Students submit three field journal entries. Journal submissions should draw on the field studies conducted to date and include students' direct field observations, analysis thereof within the context of the themes, concepts, and content presented in the course lectures and in the assigned readings. Written analysis can be supplemented by various techniques of spatial analysis (sketches, photographs, annotated google maps, etc.). Further instructions will be provided in class.

Midterm Exam (25%): Midterm exam draws on material, terminology, and concepts presented in the course readings, lectures, discussions, and field studies. The exam includes short-essay and multiple-choice responses.

Final Group Presentation (25% each): Students work in groups to select a specific site, area, or district in the city. Each group should select a topic that differs from the locations explored during in-class field studies, and they should consult with the course instructor to receive approval for their selected presentation topic. Students are to describe, analyze and interpret their object of study,

including its physical structure, sensory impressions, history, and present-day use. Groups should set the object of study into a wider context of Prague's spatial landscape and reflect on why it is important and how it is used and valued. The analysis should employ the terminology, tools, and methods of analysis presented in the course. The groups are to deliver a PowerPoint presentation which should also include visuals reflecting students' mastery of various tools of analysis.

Active Learning

Experiential learning is an essential component of education abroad, and participation in field studies is a required part of coursework. In this course, students explore the city in which they are studying using a variety of methods. This provides the opportunity to gain nuance and perspective on the host context and course content, as well as to collect information and resources for assigned papers, projects, and presentations.

- Field Studies: Prague boroughs, Vyšehrad, Hradčany, Jižní Město/Černý Most, Masarykovo Nádraží & Masaryčka, Žižkov/Karlín/Dancing House, David Černý, Stromovka, Prague Through the Eyes of the Homeless

Readings and Resources

The below readings and resources are representative of what will be assigned as required in this course, but may vary slightly in the term syllabus.

All students are given access to the online library of the University of New Haven (UNH), accessible [here](#), and are expected to comply with [UNH Policies](#) regarding library usage.

Wherever possible, required readings are made accessible through the online library or Canvas. Students are responsible for obtaining all required readings.

Each course utilizes Canvas as its LMS. Students are expected to check Canvas regularly for updates and deadlines. Canvas is also the primary platform for contacting your instructor in case of questions or concerns about the course.

Required

da Schio, N. 'Parks for kings, parks for cars, parks for people', 2020, Available at: <https://clearinghouseproject.eu/2020/06/24/parks-for-kings-cars-people>

Baillie, B. 'Shared space: Reconciling people, places and traffic', *Built Environment*, Vol. 34, Nr. 2, 2008, pp. 161-181

Cermak, Z. 'City growth and migration patterns in the context of "communist" and "transitory" periods in Prague's urban development', *Espace, Populations, Societes* 3, 1998, pp. 405-416

Cizek, E. 'Prague's Metronome: The History that Makes it Tick', available at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/ee1c368a8497410b8ca0f723f1e11941>

Fleming, R.L. 'Questions to Ask a Space', *Places*, Vol. 6, No. 4, Summer 1990, pp. 12-13

Fraser, S. 'The Metamorphosis of Prague', *Queen's Quarterly*, Vol. 123, Issue 3, 2016

Hladikova, L. 'Assessment of Green Spaces Development in Prague During 1901-2010', *Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica*, Vol. 51, No. 1, 2020, pp. 15-21

Hnidkova, V. 'Prague Castle as a Symbol of Political Representation', The challenge of the object: 33rd congress of the International Committee of the History of Art / CIHA 2012. Nürnberg: Germanisches Nationalmuseum, 2013, (Großmann, G.; Krutisch, P.), pp. 480-481

Jacobs, A. B. 'Starting to Look' in *Looking at Cities*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1985, pp. 1-13

Kallus, R. 'From Abstract to Concrete: Subjective Reading of Urban Space', *Journal of Urban Design*, Vol. 6, No. 2, 2001, pp. 129-150

Kovács, Z. 'Cities from State-Socialism to Global Capitalism: an Introduction', *GeoJournal*, Vol 49, No. 1, 1999, pp. 1-6

Lux, M. 'Housing the Poor in the Czech Republic: Prague, Brno and Ostrava', in Fearn, J. (ed.): *Too poor to move, too poor to stay. A report on housing in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Serbia. Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative. Open Society Institute. Budapest, 2004*

Massey, D. 'For Space', Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications Ltd., 2005, chapter 1, pp. 9-16

Mayer, F. 'Landmarks in History of Spatial Mapping', in Amistadi, L. et al. *Mapping Urban Spaces: Designing a European City*. London: Routledge, 2022, pp. 15-25

Nayak, A., Jeffrey, A. 'Geographies of Empire: the imperial tradition' in *Geographical Thought: an introduction to ideas in human geography*, London: Routledge, 2011, chapter 1

Nayak, A., Jeffrey, A. 'Human Geography and the cultural turn' in *Geographical Thought: an introduction to ideas in human geography*, London: Routledge, 2011, chapter 5

Pucher, J. 'The transformation of urban transport in the Czech Republic, 1988-1998' *Transport Policy*, 6, 1999, pp. 225-236

Sailer-Fliege, U. 'Characteristics of Post-socialist Urban Transformation in East Central Europe', *GeoJournal*, Vol. 49, No. 1, 1999, pp. 7-16

Schroder, U. 'A Spatial Understanding of Architecture and the City' in Amistadi, L. et al. *Mapping Urban Spaces: Designing a European City*. London: Routledge, 2022, pp. 7-15

Sjöberg, Ö. 'Shortage, Priority and Urban Growth: Towards a Theory of Urbanisation under Central Planning', *Urban Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 13, 1999, pp. 2217-2236

Sykora, L. 'Processes of Socio-spatial Differentiation in Post-communist Prague', *Housing Studies*, 14, 1999, pp. 679-701

Sykora, L. 'Changes in the Internal Spatial Structure of Post-communist Prague', *GeoJournal*, Vol. 49, No. 1, 1999, pp. 79-89

Szelényi, I. 'Cities under Socialism - and After' in Andrusz, G./Harloe, M./Szelényi, I. (eds): *Cities after Socialism. Urban and Regional Change and Conflict in Post-Socialist Societies*. Blackwell Publishers: Oxford, 1996, pp. 286-317

Varadzin, L. 'In the Shadow of Prague Castle? The Earliest History of Vyšehrad Castle (c.950–1070)', *Early Medieval Europe*, Vol. 28, No. 2, 2020, pp. 197–218

Weclawowicz, G. 'Social Polarization in Postsocialist Cities: Budapest, Prague and Warsaw' in Enyedi, G. (ed): *Social Change and Urban Restructuring in Central Europe*. Budapest: Akademiai Kiado, 1998, pp. 55-66

Recommended

Amistadi, L. et al. 'Mapping Urban Spaces: Designing a European City', London: Routledge, 2022

Andrusz, G., Harloe, M., Szelenyi, I. (eds) 'Cities after Socialism: Urban and Regional Change and Conflict in Post-socialist Societies', Oxford: Blackwell, 1996

Badura, et al. 'Public support for urban climate adaptation policy through nature-based solutions in Prague', *Landscape and Urban Planning*, Vol. 215, 2021, Article nr. 104215

Bergman, E.F., Renwick, W.H, 'Introduction to Geography. People, Places, and Environment', Third Edition, Pearson Education: Upper Saddle River, 2005

Cermák, Z. 'City Growth and Migration Patterns in the Context of Communist and Transitory Periods in Prague's Urban Development', *Espace, Populations, Societes* 3, 1998, pp. 405-416

Dorling, D., Lee, C., 'Geography: Ideas in Profile', IPS- Profile Books, 2016

Enyedi, G. 'Transformation in Central European Postsocialist Cities', in Enyedi, G. (ed) *Social Change and Urban Restructuring in Central Europe*. Budapest: Akademiai Kaido, 1998, pp. 9-34

Gehl, J. 'Life Between Buildings: Using Public Space', NY: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1987

Greenbie, B. B. 'Spaces, Dimensions of the Human Landscape', New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981

Harvey, D. 'Rebel Cities: From Right to the City to the Urban Revolution', London: Verso, 2012, 208 pp.

Henley, M., 'Taking on City Hall: The Challenges of Greening Prague', *Green European Journal*, available at: <https://www.greeneuropeanjournal.eu/taking-on-city-hall-the-challenges-of-greening-prague/>

Jacobs, A. B. 'Clues', In *Looking at Cities*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1985, pp. 30-83

Koch, R., Latham, A., 'Key thinkers on cities', Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications Ltd., 2017

Musil, J., Ryšavý, Z., 'Urban and Regional Processes under Capitalism and Socialism: A Case Study from Czechoslovakia', *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Vol. 7, No. 4, 1983, pp. 495-527

Novakovic, S. 'Disaster Capitalism: The Provocative Public Art of Prague's David Černý', available at: <https://www.azuremagazine.com/article/disaster-capitalism-the-provocative-public-art-of-pragues-david-cerny/>

Ourednicek, M. 'New suburban development in the Post-socialist city: the case of Prague', in Eckhardt, F. (ed): European City in Transition, The City and the Region, Bauhaus-Universität, Weimar, 2006

Smithson, P., Addison, K., Atkinson, K., 'Fundamentals of the Physical Environment', London: Routledge, 2008

Tuan, Y., 'Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience', Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001

Worldarchitecture.org 'Zaha Hadid Completes Masarycka Building with Golden Vertical Fins in Prague', available at: https://worldarchitecture.org/architecture-news/fzgf/zaha-hadid-architects-completes-masary%C4%8Dka-building-with-golden-vertical-fins-in-prague.html#google_vignette

Course Calendar

Session 1	
Topics	Course introduction and syllabus overview
Activity	Lecture & discussion Walk: four historical boroughs of Prague
Readings & Assignments	Review syllabus & academic policies Reading: Fleming, Jacobs

Session 2	
Topics	Origins of the City: Legends & Physical Space
Activity	Lecture & discussion, Field study Vyšehrad
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Kallus, Varadzin HW: Work on Field Journal 1

Session 3	
Topics	Fundamental Concepts and Methods Walking, spatial analysis, mental maps, drawing/sketching, photo documentation, google maps, field surveys/interviews
Activity	Lecture & discussion Practicing in the field
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Massey, Schoeder, Mayer HW: Work on Field Journal 1

Session 4	
Topics	Geography of Power: Imperial Prague

Activity	Lecture & discussion, Field study Hradčany
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Nayak & Jeffrey, ch. 1, Hnidkova HW: Field Journal 1 due

Session 5	
Topics	The Gray Era: Paneláky & Socialist Realism
Activity	Lecture & discussion, Field study Jižní Město/Černý Most
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Sjoberg, Sailer-Fliege HW: Work on Field Journal 2

Session 6	
Topics	Post-Communist Rejuvenation
Activity	Lecture & discussion, Field study Karlin & Žižkov/Dancing House
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Szelenyi, Sykora, pp. 79-89 HW: Work on Field Journal 2

Session 7	
Topics	Connecting Spaces, Connecting Old & New: Accessibility & Transportation
Activity	Lecture & discussion, Field study Masarykovo Nádraží/Z. Hadid's Masaryčka
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Baillie, Pucher, worldarchitects.org HW: Prepare for midterm exam

Session 8	
Topics	Midterm Exam
Activity	Midterm Exam
Readings & Assignments	Reading: none Screening 'Paneláky'

Session 9	
Topics	Globalization & Tourism
Activity	Lecture & discussion, Field Study Metronome
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Kovasc, Cizkova Due: Field Journal 2 due

Session 10	
Topics	Arts & Culture in the City
Activity	Lecture & discussion, Field study David Černý
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Nayak & Jeffrey, chapter 5, Fraser HW: Work on Field Journal 3

Session 11	
Topics	People & Migration
Activity	Lecture & discussion
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Sykora, pp. 679-701, Cermak HW: Work on Field Journal 3

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Session 12	
Topics	Marginalization: Prague through the Eyes of the Homeless
Activity	Guided Field Study
Readings & Assignments	Reading: Lux, Weclawowicz HW: Work on final presentations

Session 13	
Topics	A Green City
Activity	Lecture & discussion, Field Study Stromovka
Readings & Assignments	Reading: da Schio, Hladikova HW: Field Journal 3 due

Session 14	
Topics	Final Group Presentations
Activity	Group presentations delivered in class
Readings & Assignments	Reading: None

Session 15	
Topics	Course Review & Wrap-up
Activity	Concluding discussion & reflection,
Readings & Assignments	Reading: None

Section III: Academic Policies and Standards

Academic Policies

Students are expected to review and understand all CEA CAPA student policies, including our [Academic Policies](#) and [Engagement Policy](#). CEA CAPA reserves the right to change, update, revise, or amend existing policies and/or procedures at any time. Additional requirements that may be associated with a specific course or program are addressed in the term syllabus.

Student Learning & Development Objectives

CEA CAPA has identified [Student Learning and Development Objectives \(SLDOs\)](#) for all programs in all locations: content in context, navigating differences, power and equity, critical thinking and intellectual curiosity, career and professional development, and sustainability and migration. These are meta-level learning objectives that transcend coursework and are infused across all elements of program delivery, beyond specifics of course offerings, addressing student learning holistically and framing it a larger learning context.